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ECOLOGICAL CHALLENGE

Glacial lakes pose a threat

Moraine-dammed lakes on the rise in Himachal Pradesh and Trans Himalayan Region of Tibet

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T.V. Somanathan to be next Cabinet Secretary

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Former Foreign Minister Natwar Singh dies

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How is Tim Walz the perfect foil to Harris?

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NEARBY

BSY: Will ensure Siddaramaiah retires before me

MYSURU
"I may be 82, but I still have the strength to tour across the State and fight to ensure your exit as the Chief Minister," said veteran BJP leader B.S. Yediyurappa on Saturday while attacking Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. » Page 6

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Bangladesh Chief Justice quits; Hindus seek safety

Resignations in judiciary follow ultimatum from students; key university heads also quit; Yunus condemns attacks on minorities as 'heinous', and urges students to protect people of all faiths

Rabiul Alam
DHAKA

Bangladesh's Chief Justice Obaidul Hassan resigned on Saturday amid protests by students who demanded his resignation as well as a restructuring of the country's judiciary.

Two Appellate Division judges, Justice Mohammad Abu Zafor Siddique and Justice Kashefa Hussain, also resigned, according to Supreme Court sources.

The students had given a two-hour ultimatum for the resignation of the Chief Justice and other justices of the Appellate Division, who they said were loyal to the Awami League.

Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor A.S.M. Maksud Kamal, Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST) Vice-Chancellor Farid Uddin Ahmed, and Bangla Academy Director-General Md Harun-Ur-Rashid Askari too stepped down from their posts on Saturday.

Thousands of protesters, including students and members of the Hindu community, staged a demonstration in Dhaka for the second consecutive day, demanding safety. They warned that if immediate steps were not taken to stop the persecution of Hindus, they would initiate continuous protest programmes.

Muhammad Yunus, chief adviser of the interim government, condemned the attacks on minorities, calling them "heinous" and urged students to protect all Hindu, Christian, and Buddhist families from harm.

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12 KILLED IN JAILBREAKS
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Peace process: Head of the interim government, Muhammad Yunus visits the house of a slain protester in Rangpur on Saturday. AFP

Hope normalcy returns soon, says Nirmala

NEW DELHI
As the turmoil in Bangladesh caused tension for Indian textile firms invested there, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman expressed hope that the interim government will restore normalcy "sooner than later". » PAGE 8

Modi visits Wayanad, promises all possible aid

E.M. Manoj
KALPETTA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday that the Centre would provide all possible help in the relief and rehabilitation work in the landslides-hit areas of Wayanad in Kerala.

Chairing a review meeting at the Wayanad Collectorate here after visiting the affected villages and survivors, Mr. Modi said supporting the victims was the need of the hour and funds would not be a constraint.

"This disaster in Wayanad is not an ordinary one. The dreams of thousands of families have been shattered. I met the victims at relief camps. I also met the injured patients," Mr. Modi said.

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SEBI chief had stake in funds tied to Adani report: Hindenburg

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

SEBI had issued a show-cause notice on Hindenburg.

Almost 18 months after Hindenburg Research flagged allegations of malfeasance and stock price manipulation at the Adani group of companies, the U.S.-based short seller on Saturday alleged that the Chairperson of India's stock market regulator, in charge of probing these issues, herself had a stake in obscure offshore entities used in what it alleged was 'the Adani money siphoning scandal'.

Citing documents from a whistleblower, Hindenburg Research alleged that Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch and her husband, Dhaval Buch, held stakes in offshore Bermuda and Mauritius funds through complex structures. Weeks ahead of her appointment as a wholetime SEBI member in 2017, Mr. Buch had written to a Mauritius fund administrator to make him the "sole person authorised to operate the accounts", it alleged.

It also cited an account statement dated February 26, 2018, addressed to what it alleged was Ms. Buch's private e-mail account, that pegged the value of their stake in a fund called "GDOF Cell 90 (IPE-plus Fund 1)" under the aegis of Global Dynamic Opportunities Fund Ltd (GDOF), operated by IIFL Global, at over $8,72,000.

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Legacy bearers

Warm welcome: The Indian men's hockey team arrived to a rousing reception in New Delhi on Saturday after winning a second consecutive bronze in Olympics. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA (REPORT ON: PAGE 16)

Kolkata doctor murder case: civic police volunteer held

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

The Kolkata Police on Saturday arrested a civic police volunteer in the alleged rape and murder of a doctor at the R.G. Kar Medical College here, which triggered massive protests across medical colleges in West Bengal.

The accused was produced before a city court and was remanded to 14 days in police custody.

The accused has been associated with Kolkata Police as a civic police volunteer since 2019 and was part of the Disaster Management Group.

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Two workers killed as part of ceiling collapses at construction site in Peenya

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Two construction workers were killed and another seriously injured when a part of the ceiling of a five-storey under-construction building collapsed at Peenya here on Saturday.

The deceased have been identified as Veeresh, 35, from Kalaburagi, and Imam Shiekh, 28, from Yadgir.

The injured Prakash, 55, has been admitted to a private hospital and is being treated in the intensive care unit.

According to the police, the three, along with others, were working on the fifth floor of the building near NTTF circle when the incident occurred.

The site of the accident in Peenya. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

As a result, they were buried under the debris. The other workers dug them out, but one was killed on the spot, while the other died on the way to hospital.

The Peenya police sealed off the construction site and conducted spot inspection. The victims were living at Soladevanahalli and had been working at the site for a few days as daily wagers.

The site, belonging to an electric switch manufacturing company, is situated in Peenya Industrial Area. On Saturday, work was going on for the construction of a lift duct and the top floor ceiling.

The material used for the ceiling and the pillars used for centering could not withstand the pressure and collapsed on the labourers, the police said.

While three of them escaped narrowly, the other three were buried under the debris, Deputy Commissioner of Police (North Division) Saidulu Adawath said.

The police have summoned the Forensic Science Laboratory team to inspect the quality of the material used. The police are now on the lookout for the site engineer and the owner of the company.

At least 93 dead in Israeli air strike on Gaza school shelter

Agence France-Presse
GAZA CITY

An Israeli air strike hit a school-turned-shelter in Gaza early on Saturday, killing at least 93 people, Palestinian health authorities said, in one of the deadliest strikes in the 10-month-old war between Israel and Hamas.

Hamas denounced the "dangerous escalation" in north Gaza, which came after international mediators invited the warring sides to resume next Thursday talks towards a long-sought ceasefire and hostage-release deal.

Jordan's Foreign Ministry said the timing was an indication of Israel's efforts to "obstruct and thwart" the peace push. One of the mediators, Qatar, called for an "urgent international investigation" into strikes on school shelters.

Civil defence rescuers in Gaza said three Israeli missiles hit the Al-Tabieen religious school while people performed dawn prayers.

The Israeli military said at least 19 Palestinian militants were killed in the strike. "The strike was carried out using three precise munitions," it said.

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By imparting their skills, these artisans have hit the jackpot

Influenced by reels, many youngsters are thronging Pottery Town in city to learn the art during weekends, boosting the income of craftspersons

Mahima Nagaraju
Syeda Zainab
BENGALURU

Pottery Town, nestled in the narrow lanes near Benson Town in Bengaluru, is traditionally known for its Deepavali lamps and Ganesha idols. However, this year has seen a significant shift, with videos of influencers trying their hand at pottery drawing a young crowd eager to take up pottery classes, significantly boosting the income of local artisans.

"During a government holiday or during the weekend, Pottery Town feels like a festival with around 300 visitors. People watch Instagram reels and come here," said G. Rajashekhar, president of the local artisans' union and a State award-winning potter. He noted that before the online attention, artisans' incomes fluctuated between ₹10,000 and ₹50,000 a month. Now, offering classes has provided additional income of anywhere between ₹10,000 and ₹30,000 for the 20 artisans involved.

A file photo of an artist immersed in his work at Pottery Town.

This influx has been a boon for the artisans who faced a drastic drop in foreign tourists post-pandemic. Mr. Rajashekhar attributes the decline to poor accessibility and neglected civic maintenance.

"The roads are terrible. When it rains, shops are flooded. Making this area a heritage site would help preserve our *kumbarike* (traditional pottery) heritage, which spans five generations," he explained.

Unique experience

Young visitors, inspired by social media reels, often come to Pottery Town seeking a unique experience with friends or significant others.

Isha, a CA aspirant, shared her excitement about her date with pottery. "I wanted to try this because it looked exciting and new," she said. With fees ranging from ₹150 to ₹300 for a 15-minute session, extended as needed, it is an affordable option.

Influencer Diya Bhandari, one of the first to promote Pottery Town, highlighted affordability as a key attraction. "As a college student, you can't spend ₹2,000 on expensive pottery cafes. It also looks great on Instagram. Posting a pretty video motivates people to visit. Additionally, the artisans are patient and willing to teach, making it a valuable experience," she said.

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Rough launch: A fishing boat defies high waves to cross the Muthalappozhi breakwater channel in Thiruvananthapuram.

Precise manoeuvre: A boat goes full throttle through the channel, timing the exit to avoid getting caught in the high waves.

Lurking danger: The slightest error when exiting the channel could lead the boats towards tetrapods lining the harbour, resulting in damage to the vessel.

Through the channel of fear

The breakwater zone of Muthalappozhi harbour in Thiruvananthapuram has seen many fishing boat accidents over a decade, claiming 46 lives between 2016 and 2024

Nirmal Harindran
nirmal.harindran@thehindu.co.in

Fear grips Shibu Waicus, 35, a fisherman at Muthalappozhi, as his twin-engine traditional fishing boat nears the exit of the breakwater zone touching the Arabian Sea off the coast of Muthalappozhi harbour in Thiruvanathapuram. Mr. Waicus, accompanied by veteran fisherman Vallerian Isac, 58, laughs nervously as the boat crosses the danger mark and sets off into the deep sea.

The breakwater zone of the Muthalappozhi harbour, about 40 km north of the Vizhinjam port, has seen many fishing boat accidents over the past decade, claiming over 46 lives between 2016 and 2024. Fishermen say the number of casualties is even higher if one takes into account the figure since 2000 when the breakwater piers were erected. There has been much debate over the method and design of the two-pier structures that extend into the sea.

When the boat slams down on the sea after holding a nose-up position while returning to land, fishermen can be seen holding on to the motor rudder handle tightly with the relief on their eyes of surviving one more day crossing the channel of fear.

The unusually rough nature of waves close to the breakwater structure is a phenomenon that developed over the years due to unscientific construction of the piers, coastal land erosion and changes in weather patterns related to the southwest monsoon.

"Unfortunately the breakwater zone was constructed without leaving sufficient distance between the two piers for the seawater to enter the land and river water to exit," says Jackson Pollayil, president of Kerala Swatantra Matsya Thozhilali Federation, a fisherfolk organisation.

The region has seen several protests since 2016 against the unscientific construction of the breakwater causing fishermen casualties. The State government is currently focused on dredging the channel to ensure a 5-metre depth as an attempt to find a temporary solution.

"At present we are monitoring the situation and are awaiting a study report from the Central Water and Power Research Station, Pune to bring in a permanent solution to the design flaws of the breakwater system," says Arun Mathew, Assistant Engineer, State Harbour Engineering Department, Muthalappozhi sub-division.

Safe crossing: Fishing boats in the deep sea off the Muthalappozhi coast after navigating through the channel.

Government Museum likely to remain closed for one more year

This is owing to the museum being low on storage space and funds, slowing down the restoration work; Venkatappa Art Gallery is expected to be opened in about three months

Yemen S.
BENGALURU

Government Museum is being renovated for the first time after close to 150 years. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

The Government Museum on Kasturba Road, which has been shut for over a year for restoration work, is likely to remain closed for one more year.

This is owing to the museum running low on storage space and funds, which has slowed down the restoration work. The museum is being renovated and curated for the first time after close to 150 years.

The adjoining Venkatappa Art Gallery was also shut keeping in mind the safety of visitors during the work at the museum. However, the gallery is expected to be opened to the public in about three months.

The Department of Tourism had directed Karnataka Tourism Infrastructure Limited (KTIL) to upgrade, undertake conservation and curation of the Government Museum, citing the deplorable condition of the heritage building and the inadequate display space on the premises.

After four years of planning, the museum was shut for restoration work in June 2023. The work was to be completed in about a year.

Officials had said that of the 22 categories of objects in the museum, only eight had been displayed based on available space. The renovation is expected to amplify the space to display the remaining categories.

Tharakesh T., Archaeological Conservation Engineer, Department of Archaeology, Museums and Heritage, told *The Hindu* that work is in progress at the old block and is expected to be completed by this August-end. However, the new block will take another six to eight months.

"Work is in progress, but space is a constraint. We have only one storage space to keep the valuable antiques and artefacts. Once the old block is completed, we will shift the valuables there and begin work in the new block," he explained.

The museum was allotted ₹5.53 crore by the State government for conservation.

"But we will require more funds for interiors and site development outside the museum, like landscaping, parking lot, information kiosks, and development of the cafeteria. We are trying to get the pending work done through CSR activities, and are on the lookout for donors. It will easily take another year for completion of the renovation and for the museum to be opened," he said.

Renovated aquarium at Cubbon Park makes a splash as footfall doubles

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

The aquarium, established in 1983, underwent a makeover in the last couple of years. JAHANAVI T.R.

The Namma Bengaluru Aquarium (previously known as Government Aquarium) in Cubbon Park was bustling with children and tourists on a weekday afternoon. The landmark aquarium, established in 1983, underwent a makeover in the last couple of years. Post-makeover, it was opened to the public on May 31.

The old building had only one level to display different kinds of fish. The revamped aquarium has a two-floor 'Theme Aquarium', a 'Marine Fish Tunnel', a 'Japanese Koi Fish Pond' with a capacity of 1 lakh litres, and a feeding facility along with a souvenir store and a cafeteria.

Sushma, along with her young son, was feeding the fish in the koi pond. "I had visited the old aquarium when I was a child. I recently saw online that it was renovated and brought my son. He has been enjoying his experience here," she said.

Then there was Kiran Reddy, who had come to Bengaluru from Andhra Pradesh with his wife and son for a vacation. "We are seeing something like this for the first time. My son really liked the Sahyadri Aquatic Haven," he said.

The 'Sahyadri Aquatic Haven' is one of the displays in the 'Theme Aquarium' inspired by the landscape of the Sahyadri range. The 'Marine Fish Tunnel', with a capacity of 75,000 litres, is among the most popular attractions. Observing the different species were three college students. One among them exclaimed, "This fish looks like the one from (the movie) *Finding Nemo*!"

The trio were not aware of the existence of the aquarium. "We got to know that there was an old structure, and it has been renovated. So, we came to check it out. It has been fun so far," said Shreya, who was in the group.

The aquarium hosts unique marine and fresh water species like blue tang, moorish idol, discus, gourami, lion fish, and jellyfish among others. The footfall has almost doubled ever since the renovation, according to Namma Bengaluru Aquarium, which now runs the aquarium on a public-private partnership (PPP) model with the Department of Fisheries.

"On weekdays, we see close to 700 visitors. During the weekend, the number often crosses 1,500," said S. Nandakumar, director of Namma Bengaluru Aquarium.

A training classroom and a museum are also in the works.

"We received feedback from visitors that while they like the species, they also want to see more bigger fish. Hence, we will have varieties like the blacktip reef shark and moon jellyfish in the museum. Work on the museum is expected to be completed soon."

The aquarium has not been formally inaugurated after the renovation. According to sources, authorities in the Department of Fisheries are awaiting the availability of Minister of fisheries, Ports and Inland Water Transport Mankal. S. Vaidya for the formal inauguration.

Entry tickets at the aquarium are priced at ₹95 for adults and ₹30 for children on weekdays, and ₹100 for adults and ₹40 for children on weekends.

NIA nabs key accused in Sri Lankan human trafficking case

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday arrested a key accused in the Sri Lankan human trafficking case, who was on the run for the last three years.

Seeni Aabulkhan from Sri Lanka was nabbed from Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu, where he was hiding.

A NIA probe found that he, along with his associates, used to confine trafficked victims in a boat, before sending them to Mangaluru by trains, cars, and bikes, said an NIA release.

13 rescued in 2021

"The case was originally registered by the Mangaluru City Police after searches led to the rescue of 13 Sri Lankan nationals from traffickers in June 2021. The NIA took over the investigation and it was revealed that a Sri Lankan, identified as Eesan who had previous links to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, was the kingpin of the racket," said a NIA release.

"He had colluded with the accused to illegally bring 38 Sri Lankan nationals to various locations within Tamil Nadu after luring them with promises of jobs and better prospects. Besides a promise of helping them obtain legitimate documentation for migration to Canada, they were lured with employment opportunities," the release added.

The NIA had chargesheeted 10 accused, including three absconders, between October 2021 and January 2024. Investigation is continuing to apprehend the remaining absconders.

Pose a question to Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy

#THTALKSBENGALURU

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Have a question about HSRP number plates, the Shakti scheme, KSRTC, BMTC buses, or the Muzrai Department? Get answers from Ramalinga Reddy, Karnataka's Transport and Muzrai Minister, as *The Hindu* will pose your questions to him on #THTalksBengaluru.

Mr. Reddy, an eight-time Congress MLA from Bengaluru, represents the BTM Layout constituency in Bengaluru.

He has previously held various portfolios, including Finance, Industry, Agricultural Marketing, Food and Civil Supplies, Bengaluru Development, and Primary and Secondary Education.

A seasoned politician with a strong grasp of Bengaluru's civic affairs, Mr. Reddy began his political career with the Bengaluru City Corporation Council from 1983 to 1988.

Readers can submit their questions about the Transport Department, State-run road transport corporations (RTCs) – KSRTC, BMTC, NWKRTC, and KKRTC or the Muzrai Department via email to thtalksbengaluru@thehindu.co.in before 12 p.m. on August 13. The interaction will be published on August 14.

From Page One

By imparting their skills, these artisans have hit the jackpot

Subash, an 18-year-old artisan who teaches pottery, recalled the peak of the craze when 30 to 40 people queued up outside his family's one-room workshop.

Despite the popularity, classes are not held at fixed times. Artisans prefer one-on-one sessions to accommodate their manufacturing commitments. "It's more of a hobby for us. Regular classes are not feasible because we have to cater to the needs of Bengaluru. Our union distributes our products to restaurants, sweet shops, weddings, and companies," explained Saravana P., father of Subash. His shop specialises in earthen cups and biryani pots.

The viral trend has brought much-needed attention and revenue to Pottery Town, helping sustain a centuries-old craft. With better infrastructure and recognition, this cultural hub has the potential to preserve its rich tradition for future generations.

Samples of sheep meat seized at KSR railway station safe, find lab reports

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The meat was being transported by train from Jaipur, Rajasthan, to Bengaluru. FILE PHOTO

After confirming that the meat being transported by train from Jaipur, Rajasthan, to Bengaluru was of sheep and not dogs, as alleged by a cow vigilante and his associates, it has now been declared that the meat was also of a safe quality.

"A total of 84 parcels were identified and upon inspection of some, animal meat was found. To confirm the type of meat, legal food samples were collected and sent for analysis to the government laboratory at ICAR, National Meat Research Institute, Hyderabad. The analysis report confirmed that the meat was from Ovis Aries (sheep). Furthermore, the microbiological quality parameters of the meat were subjected to test in three separate FSSAI-approved, NABL-accredited laboratories. The analysis reports from the three laboratories have been received by the Department of Food Safety and Standard Department. According to these reports, none of the meat samples analysed were unsafe," said a release.

"However, the level of E. coli bacteria in one of the laboratory reports was found to be more than the microbiological quality parameters prescribed by FSSAI, while other parameters were within the FSSAI-specified limits," it added, further clarifying that according to the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011, Appendix-B, Table-5, this factor does not prevent the sale of such meat.

The latest clarification comes just days after a high drama over the issue and FIRs were registered against cow vigilante Puneeth Kerehalli, Pratap Simha, former MP, and their associates by the Basaveshwaranagar police for unlawful assembly and preventing police personnel from discharging their duties. They had held a protest alleging police brutality and also demanded an FIR against the meat trader Abdul Razaq.

This came on the same day K. Srinivas, Food and Health Commissioner, said that the meat seized at the KSR station had now been confirmed to be from sheep after DNA analysis.

Book Brahma festival concludes today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The three-day Book Brahma Literature Festival 'Soul of South', which celebrates the southern languages, ends on Sunday with a series of discussions and performances.

Among the highlights on Sunday is Hindustani music by Venkatesh Kumar at 8.30 a.m. followed by a poetry performance by multi-lingual actor Prakash Raj titled 'Diverse Languages, Same Feeling'. There will be multiple sessions through the day on literature in Kannada, Telugu, Tamil, and Malaylam at St. John's Auditorium in Koramangala.

The second day of the festival on Saturday saw a music performance by Bindhumalini, followed by a session featuring O.L. Nagabhushanaswamy, Paul Zacharia, Perumal Murugan, Vadrevu Chinaveerabhadrudu, and Pratibha Nandakumar on 'South Indian Languages: The Question of Existence'.

Prof. Nagabhushanaswamy observed that while Kannada does not face the threat of extinction, it might gradually turn into a "language of the older people", with much of its vocabulary lost to the younger generation.

Awards

The day concluded with Book Brahma Independence Day Short Story Competition Awards-2024, where Malayalam author Benyamin announced the winners and distributed the awards.

Indrakumar H.B. received the first prize, while Vinayaka Aralasuruli and Poornima Malagimani came second and third, respectively. This was followed by Mr. Benyamin in conversation with Sreejith Kadiyakkol and Sudhkaran Ramanthali, offering insights into his literary journey and creative process.

Woman held on charge of killing husband

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The accused initially told the police that her husband had slipped during a scuffle and sustained a head injury

The Whitefield police on Saturday arrested a 34-year-old private firm employee for allegedly strangling her husband to death over a domestic row on Friday.

The accused Tejaswini initially told the police that Mahesh had slipped during a scuffle and sustained a head injury which led to his death, but the post-mortem report revealed otherwise, following which the police arrested her on the charge of murder.

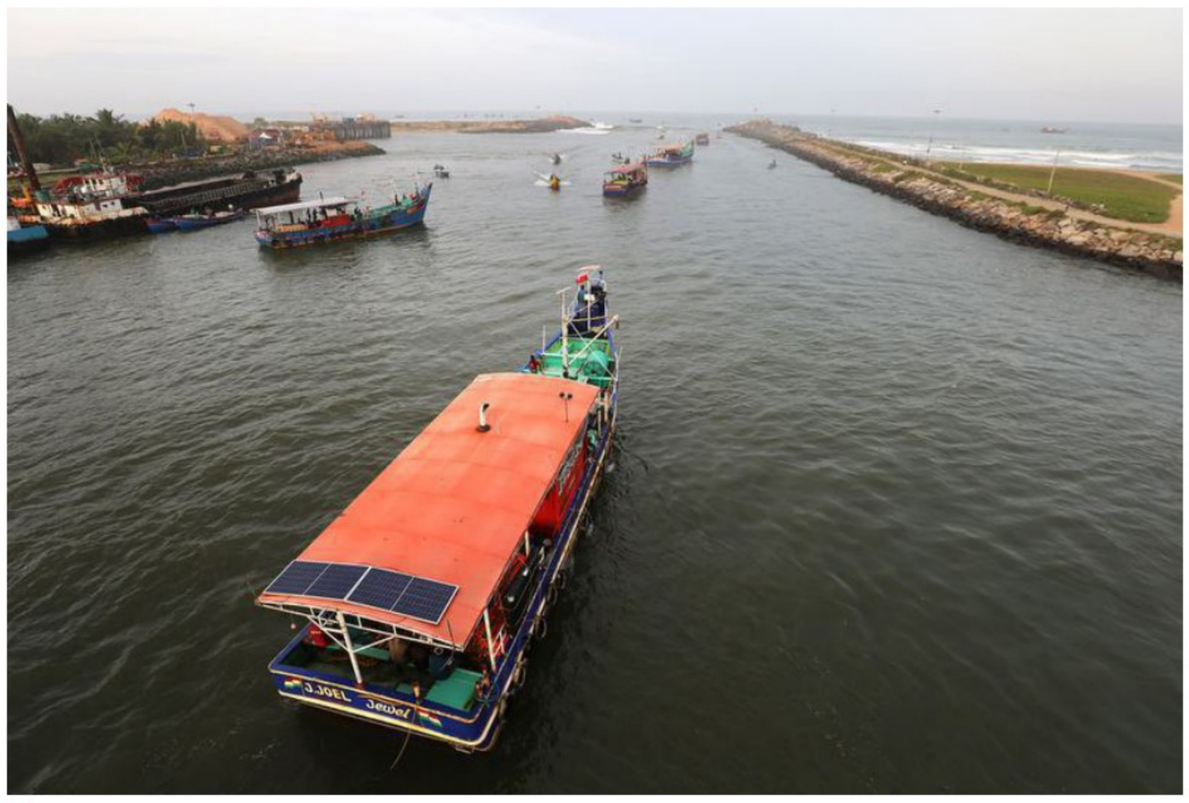
According to the police, Tejaswini was married to Mahesh, 36, an autorickshaw driver and the couple had two children aged 12 and 10. The family was living at Hagadur.

A probe revealed that the couple used to have frequent fights as Mahesh, a habitual drinker, used to come home drunk and demand money from Tejaswini, claimed the police.

On Friday, a fight broke out between them, following which Tejaswini allegedly strangled Mahesh, after which he collapsed breathless and sustained head injuries. He was rushed to a private hospital where the doctor declared him as brought dead.

The police detained Tejaswini and recorded her statement and she allegedly tried to make it like an accidental death. However, the police found a ligature mark around Mahesh's neck, and later the post-mortem report confirmed the death owing to strangulation.

The police also arrested Gajendra, 30, the suspect's relative, who allegedly aided her in the murder.



Tricky travel: Fishing boats entering and exiting the Muthalappozhi harbour through the breakwater channel.

Daily task: Fishermen have to navigate the risky channel to make a living.

Silent spectator: A dredger anchored near the harbour, as fishing boats move towards the end of the channel.

Temporary relief: Dredging is aimed at reducing risk to fishermen.

Eroded away: Ruins of an anganwadi, damaged after the sea took over parts of the coast at Perumathura in Thiruvananthapuram.

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BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

INDEX OF MATRIMONIAL

BRIDEGROOMS WANTED
BRIDES WANTED
BRIDES & GROOMS WANTED
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DOCTOR

✔ **HINDU NADAR, 30Y, 165 cm, very fair, Doctor, recently graduated from Cardiology fellowship in USA, hailing from highly affluent business family, looking for an equally well–educated groom, preferably a doctor working in USA. Contact: vsajsr@gmail.com, +919791994449.**

HINDU/ CNB/ 24/ MBBS /Ailyam/ Cevvai8./ Chennai / Looking for Suitable Doctor OR Engineer Groom.(Age 25–28) Ct: 9677199925.

GROOM WANTED Rich Mudaliyar, 29yrs, MBBS, MD, Elite business family in Chennai Ct: 9710093999/ 9710091999

BRIDEGROOM WANTED
MD Anesthesiology Doctor Girl Age 35, 165cm, fair, beautiful, cultured, hailing from an affluent family of doctors. Working in private Hospital, Chennai. Only Daughter, Father Surgeon Kerala Nair, Mother Tamil CSI. Doctor or Engineer grooms from respectable family preferred.
98400 50381 / 98409 85383

IAS / ALLIED SERVICES

IFS OFFICER, 26 yrs. Seeking proposals from grooms in IFS/IAS or allied services. Mob: 9447082753

KANNADA

HINDU VOKKALIGA Gowda 29, BE from Coimbatore seeks Suitable Groom. Contact: 97917 68175.

NRI

DOCTOR MPH (USA) & M.D (USA) Internal Medicine Resident Physician 31/ 163 Very Fair Girl Kamma Naidu CNB (Doctor/ Engineer in USA) 9444641004

TAMIL

TAMIL MUSLIM UK parents looking for a Doctor/Dentist groom in England for theirdaughter/24yr/160cm/ MBChB,BMedSc/London F2 Academic Doctor. 00447424907858 sheikh54@yahoo.com

CSI CHRISTIAN 31, fair well educated legal professional from respectful elite, cosmopolitan family, settled in Chennai seeks suitable well educated Groom with similar background. Ph: 9445417111/ 824–8853323

✔ **MUSLIM GIRL 37 fair slim B.E. seeks employed, never married, qualified Tamil muslim Groom. 9444235779**

BORN AGAIN Christian, 44yrs/154, MBBS.MD government doctor, seeks Christian groom.CT–9500188067

CSI NADAR 27/165cm, MA, Elite business family in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Groom Ct: 9380791999/ 9841329471

Well Established Christian Nadar, Business Family seeks Groom for their Fair, Beautiful and highly Educated daughter working in an International Government Organisation invites Proposals from well Educated and Affluent Grooms aged 33-40yrs. Please send your Biodata to 98408 20508

CHRISTIAN, 33 YRS, M.Sc. Working as Data Engineer in USA. Income 1 crore. Ph. 8138900470

LOOKING FOR Christian Bridegroom for the girl working in USA start-up aged 25. End time message. 8939250457

DKV/SC 30/167 fair BE, TCS Chennai, Parents Hindu / CSI. Seeks Groom Dr/Er, Govt Employee. Ct: 8056143638

HINDU, NADAR, B.Arch, Age 25, Star Kumbam, Sathayam, Need Bridegroom, Bangalore/Foreign. Ct: 9842026940

HINDU NADAR girl, BC, Tamilnadu, ME, age 30, DOB 4/8/1994, Ht 167 cms, wt.63 kg, Thiruvathirai, mithunam, doing 1st year PhD in IIT Kharagpur, West Bengal, Calcutta seeks any BC, well qualified and settled IIT professor or IIT PhD student in North India. Ct. 96265 15511

HINDU NADAR girl, BE(Mech), age 25, DOB 12/1998, Ht.166 cms, Wt 60 kg, Fair, Poosam, Kadagam, MNC in Chennai, Upper middle class seeks well qualified and settled groom in Chennai. Ct. 96265 15511.

DEVAR MARAVAR Age 25/158cm Catering Technology Own Business at Chennai Seeks Groom in the same caste with Any Deg & Good Habit : 7550208545

HINDU MARAVAR 29/155, MBBS MD PursuingThiruvonam, lives in Chennai Seeks Suitable Groom. Ct: 9445231765

GROOM WANTED CNB 32yrs M.Arch Running Own Business in Chennai Rich Affluent Family 9710093999/ 9710091999

HINDU NADAR, 26/164cm, Meenam, B.E.,M.S., Data Engineer, Sydney, Foreign/India Ct:94422 73841

TAMIL

HASTHAM, FAIR 36, MCA Well Settled in Chennai Seeks Mudaliar/Pillai Profly Qualf working Groom 8220757159

THULUVA VELALAR Agamudayar Arcot Mudaliyar 32 V.Fair Elite Dentist Doctor. Ct: 9486531194 / 8637481104

TIRUNELVELI SAIVAPILLAI, Good looking, 25yrs/ 165cm, Aswini, B.Tech., 15L seeks suitable Groom. Contact: 63807 58642/ 94427 51125

✔ **NAIDU,26/**152 cm, CHENNAI, sincere, hardworking & good position in SW. Looking for a suitable kind-hearted, teetotaler groom. Caste No bar. Contact:9381725825

SC AD 26/B.Tech.,(IT) Sr. Engr.,(L&T)75,000p.m. Settled family.Seeks Bride Groom.Ph. 9444993417/ 7397674481

HINDU NADAR 29yrs BE, MBA, 12L/PA, Elite Business family. Seeks Suitable Groom Ct: 9380791999/ 9841329471

MUDALIAR: 23/165CM, Under graduate, MNC ,Bangalore, 1600000 PA, Well settled family, Seeks groom – Eng / Business – 9962530015

MUDALIAR: 25/160CM, B.E,MS (USA), Associate developer, MNC, Newyork, USA, Elite Family, Seeks groom – Abroad, India –8925019776

SC/AD 32yrs/M.Sc, B.Ed, M.Phil, P.hd/Asst.Professor. Seeks Bridegroom. Ct: 9600855627

HINDU MARUTHUVAR 29, 167cm Fair Good Looking M.Com CA Seeks well Qualified Groom WA Call Only 9600776871

GROOM WANTED Elite Mudaliyar 30yrs Divorce B.Tech Affluent business family Chennai 9710093999/ 9710091999

CNB, 39YRS, MBA, Working in US, Divorce, Elite Family. Seeks Suitable Groom Cont: 9962791888 / 7094991999

VANNIYAKULA KSHATRIYAR, 25/164 cms, LLM, Fair, Good Looking, RaghuKethu dosham seeks Groom from Good Educated Family.Caste No Bar.9940655572

HINDU, NADAR, 25yrs MBA. Runs own business. Income 50 lakhs. Rich and affluent family. Ph. 8138900557

IYER KOUNDIYAM Poosam B.E. Aged 25, 45K need Chennai Tamil Iyer Pref. Whatsapp 90034 12857 / 94448 96238

BRIDEGROOM WANTED
ARCOT MUDALIAR AFFLUENT, 23yrs, VISHAKHAM Patham 1 THULAM RASI 163cm., M.TECH
80564 11999
99622 11999
ceohealthway@gmail.com

HINDU YADAVA (CNB) 29yrs/165cm MBBS, DNB, 18LPA ESIC Hosp. Chennai seeks Groom Ct:7811007100

Vaniya Chettiar, 27years, Beautiful, C.A. working in MNC in Chennai. We Prefer Hindu groom with C.A./Financial Executive, Tamil-Speaking Non-Vegetarian from Chettiar,Mudaliyar & Pillai. Please send Horoscope & other details to WhatsApp No: 94445 87465

HINDU SC/AD, 36yrs BE, Sr. Software Engr. in TCS - Chennai, 18LPA, never married seeks Groom. Ct:9952147216

HINDU NADAR 32yrs/164cm, B.Tech star-Revathy workg-IT seeks IT/ other profnl groom 9944410712/9514952555

FC CATHOLIC NRI Age 40years, legally separated, seeks Qualified & well settled Groom from a decent back ground with no issues. Religion no Bar. Contact : 63841 12814

HINDU, CASTE NO BAR, 37 yrs, MD, working as Doctor in UAE, Income 1crore. Upper middle class family. Ph 8138900312

TELUGU

RICH KAMMA Naidu, 29yrs, MBBS, MD, Elite business family, Seeks Suitable Groom Ct: 9710093999/ 9710091999

Naidu, 50yrs, +2 working as Cashier in Pvt. Co., Chennai seeks Groom Age and Caste no bar Ct: 93841 25378

BRIDES WANTED

BUSINESS

AGE 37 Handsome, Settled Groom seeks Dignitary Family Bride& 1st Marriage, Remarriage, Divorce 9597834451

COSMOPOLITAN

RC CHRISTIAN boy, Tamil Udayar unmarried 1983 April, 180 cms, Australian citizen, employed in Australian govt service seeking professionally qualified girl willing to work and settle in Australia, caste no bar. Ct: father-9916294395

DM DOCTOR (Tamil, Dec'91, 185 cm,v.fair,Hastham) seeks a well qualified, fluent in English–Tamil, tall, fair, virtuous bride below 30 years from Kongu Vellala, Pillai, Kamma, Nair or similar castes; Parents– 93425–29547 / 9072118800

DIVORCEE

AGAMUDAYA MUDALIYAR, 42 Mirugasiridam PhD TN Govt Job Rs 1.35 Lakh P/M."No Broker" Divorced : 7904550883

MALAYALAM

MUSLIM ENGG (31/175) seeks alliance from girls 25y and above. Interested to stay in Bangalore can contact: 7598103537

TAMIL

CSI NADAR 30yrs M.Arch (US) 185cm, Elite business family, Seeks Suitable Bride Ct: 9380791999/ 9841329471

TAMIL MUSLIM 29/174 pursuing MS ortho seeks prof qualified bride. Ct: 8220042091 mdullahsafi@gmail.com

RC CHRISTIAN, 42yrs/170, B.E. Software Engineer, never married, working for mnc, Chennai, CT–9500188067

CSI CHRISTIAN Nadar 28 MS USA Seeks fair slim same community bride willing to relocate to USA. 9382266099

CHRISTIAN, 25, Studying and Working at Australia. Seeks Suitable Bride,Religious/ Caste No Bar. 9677216306

CHRISTIAN, CSI, 28 yrs, MBA. Working as HR Professional in Bangalore, Income 40 lakhs. Ph. 9072777804

THEVAR, 27 yrs, B com, MBA(UK) smart and handsome boy , very rich more than 2000cr seeks fair and very beautiful, smart educated girl from an affluent family. CNB 7305010105

TAMIL REDDIYAR Age 32/ 172cm BE Accenture IT Chennai.Wanted Bride Upper Middle Good Family. Ct:9444224508

TAMIL BRAHMIN Iyer, handsome boy, 46yrs/170cms / Sadhayam, MCA, employed in Chennai, belongs to a well settled family seeks a warm hearted, Educated, good looking girl from a good family background, employment is optional/not a must. Ct: 9500995343

BRIDE WANTED Hindu Nadar 33/185cm BE(civil) Own business in Chennai. KA Ramannadar 9380791999/ 9841329471

HINDU NADAR, Age 44 working in Film Industry, Chennai, Divorcee, Star Cancer, Poosam Children: Two boys Age: 12 and 13 (Hostel) Second Marriage, Caste No bar, no expectations. Staying in rental House seeking suitable Bride Brokers Excuse. Interested Bride only Contact: 9840075677

AGE 46, 2nd Marriage, Working in Hospital at Qatar. Suitable Bride who willing to come Qatar. Ct: +97433840227 / 9498328263

HINDU – BE/33/170cm / SWE/SC / Ayillam – Katagam. Family is financially well off, educated and settled in Bangalore. Looking for a suitable Bride from the same / other caste. Contact No : 9845401461.

28, TAMIL Vanniyar Fair, Handsome Second Marriage, Well Settled in Bangalore. Caste No Bar. Seeks Good looking decent Bride. Cont:7401489892

BE IIT 188cm Height Mudaliar 32yrs Tech Lead Top MNC in Hyderabad Sal 75lacs seeks Bride 163cm Same or Allied Castes Tamil,Telugu- 7382620365

HINDU, VISHWAKARMA, 33 yrs, B.E. Own Business. Income 1crore. Ph 8138900316

HINDU PILLAI, 29 yrs, M.TECH. Engineer in Australia. Income 1crore, Rich and affluent family. Ph. 8138900466

HINDU, PILLAI, 30 yrs, B.E,MBA. Working as Business Consultant in Bangalore. Income 1 crore. Family Rich and Affluent. Ph: 8138900412

BRAMIN 39,KANNI Astam BE,TCS Seek Same bride Sethuraman 6/11,Subramaniyam Rd Perambur Ch–11 Ph:9940319264

IYENGAR VADAKALAI 38/176 MA working in Chennai 12 Lpa. Seeks Educated bride from decent Family 9884218863

BRAHMIN 55, Seeks below 53 Years Brahmin Bride. Widowed, Divorcee and Unmarried also Ok. Ct: 9384586456

BRIDE WANTED
- Hindu / Gounder
- Affluent
- Coimbatore Based
- Well Settled
- Business Family
- Own Business
- B.Com 38/178
- Legally Divorced
- No Issues
- CASTE NO BAR

✆9842242444
bullbox1972@gmail.com

Hindu Vysya Chettiyar 58yrs Self Employed Rs.9 L.P.A, Pure Veg. Seeks Bride. Caste No Bar. Ct: 94990 14886.

SC/AD, 36/175cm, BE, IT. Project Mgr. WFH, Revathy, Meenam Rasi, Lagnam- Viruchikam seeks bride prefered From Thirunelveli. Cont: 99946 81634.

28/180 / M Tech/ Biotechnology/ Ahmedabad / Vegetarian Groom seeks Educated Employed Bride Contact: 9442649298

Nadar 38/185 Bharani/ Mesham M.Sc IT, MBA.,SW Professional in USA. 2nd Marriage seeks suitable Bride, Caste no Bar. Ct: 94442 11124/ 94442 11114

RC NADAR 37yrs, B.Tech IT-Manager Rs.27 LPA,Chennai seeks suitable qualified bride. 9003133546/ 7338790530

HINDU, KONGU Nadar 26/174 Swathi, Thulam, B.Tech, well settled family, business at Salem, Seeks qualified Bride, same Caste. M.98430 36363

Balija Naidu Groom, 33/178 cm/80, Fair, IT Professional, working in MNC, Chennai seeks Employed Bride. Contact: 9158987724/9665036177

CHRISTIAN, CSI, 37 yrs, MDS. Divorced. Working as Doctor in Coimbatore. Income 1 crore. Ph. 8138900553

Wanted unmarried Girl for Boy (36) B.Tech, Proj. Engg. Sudha Jathakam, Hindu, Trivandrum. Cont: 9895898812

TELUGU

NAIDU 50/186 Sadayam, Divorcee No Issues, MCA IT Proj Mngr Clean Habits. Seeks Bride. 89398 59950

BALIJA NAIDU 30/173 cm Viruchigam, Kettai, BE MBA HR-Associate, US Co working in chennai seeks good looking qualified bride.Ct:98408 82910

KAMMA NAIDU 28/178, DME/ Web Designer, Own Business 50000/–, Own House Chennai, Seeks Educated Family Oriented bride. 9884479189/ 9080699957

DOCTOR, SOFTWARE Engineer in Newzealand/ Australia/ India Bride required for BDS Surgeon U.K (MBA) presently working at Bangalore 1981 born, Divorcee, wishes to relocate to Newzealand. CNB. Ct: 9886782390, 9962246305

✔ **HINDU REDDY 40/191 cms MDS issueless divorcee freelancer Chennai no commitments willing to stay in bride house and take care of the business if any. Caste, religion, age no bar. Ct 9003060330.**

BALIJA NAIDU 26/173, B.E, State Govt Staff. Seeks Fair/Good Looking Bride in & around Chennai. 9176937691

NAIDU 25 / 180 cms, B.Tech (CSE) IT professional global big 4 consultancy firm at Chennai seeks educated, family oriented bride from good family contact phone / whatsapp : 9962479158

TELUGU

NAIDU 28/177 Handsome MBBS,MD, Own Hospital, 3000000.PA, Well Settled Family, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

TELUGU BRAHMIN, 39, BE Proprietor, HR Admin, Bharatwajam, Any Brahmin / Veg only. 8939404344 / 7358234746

URDU

SUNNI URDU from Chennai, BE (ECE), Nov 97, 185 cm, MNC, 20 LPA,Dad business, Mom GM in PSB, seeks prof qual working girl from well settled family from Tamilnadu. 9940057292

SMU SYED Boy 32yrs, 168, MBA Working in MNC Seeks Religious Namazi Hijabi Girl. No Demands Ct: 9790703195

SMU 35/169cm Doctorate Working Scientist MNC Seeks Well Educated working girl 9566025313/ 8428347886

SUNNI MUSLIM Chennai 29/166, wheatish BE, self logistics business only son, well settled, parents both govt officers seeks same sect bride working/non working fair wheatish from respectable family Ct:9600028388

US Born 37yrs old male with bachelor degree & working, Parents from South India looking for a Muslim girl within 35years Please send details & Photo through email:mbanue101@gmail.com Parents now in Chennai & will leave by Aug.29th. Sub-Caste no Bar.

BRIDES & GROOMS WANTED

TAMIL

HINDU RICH A.D. Doctor boy 29 having Own Clinic with Pharmacy & Lab, Sister MBBS 27 Seeks suitable Elite rich doctors or business bride & groom, pref. Chennai. 7305010105

MARRIAGE BUREAU

US UK Canada All Caste Religion 1st Marriage Remarriage. Ct:8248757840

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ELITE BRIDES WANTED

MUDALIYAR, 31, 174 cms, MBA, Businessman. Lives in Bangalore. Parents are Entrepreneurs. Family is financially well off. Looking for a suitable match from any equal community Contact :6366448344

NAIDU, 27, 174 cms, BSc, Businessman. Lives in Chennai. Parents are Entrepreneurs. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match from any equal community. Contact: 6366448344

GAVARA NAIDU, 24, 180 cms, MBA, Businessman. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for a compatible match from Naidu match in India. Contact: 6366448343

DEVAR AGAMUDAYAR, 25, 171 cms, MS, Entrepreneur. Lives in Madurai. Business class family. Looking for suitable match from Devar Agamudayar community. Contact: 6366448343

ELITE GROOMS WANTED

VELLALAR, 26, 167 cms, BSc, Entrepreneur. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match from any equal community. Contact: 6366448344

KONGU VELLALA GOUNDER, 28, 155 cms, BE, Entrepreneur. Lives in Tiruppur. Parents are Entrepreneurs. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match from same community Contact:6366448344

NAIDU, Divorcee, 31, 165 cms. MBBS, Doctor, Lives in Kallakuruchi. Father is into business. Looking for a like minded match from Tamil Nadu. Preferably Doctor. Contact: 6366448343

NAI BRAHMIN, 28, 158 cms, MBBS, MD, Doctor. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Working Professional. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded Doctor match. Preferably Andhra and Telanagana. Contact: 6366448343

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DIVORCEE

60–YEAR– GRADUATE engineer, second divorcee, seeking a warm–hearted, intelligent partner for a meaningful relationship. Enjoys outdoor activities, travel, and engaging conversations. Values honesty, kindness, and a good sense of humor. Looking for someone to share life's adventures and build a future together. If you are a like–minded individual seeking a bride without kid .Ct – 88387 44120.

DOCTOR

RC NADAR, 27/183cm, MBBS, 1Lakh per month, Elite Family. Seeks Suitable Bride. Ct: 9380791999/ 9841329471

LOOKING FOR an MBBS bride for a 25 years old MD, resident physician, in the US. The groom is 173cm and the family is well established OCIs. The potential bride should be fair, less than 24 years of age, and financially in the top tier, wealth wise. Please email with details about the bride to sauwa7@gmail.com

HINDI

1985/175CM, 50 Lakhs PA, Never Married, Bangalore. WhatsApp: 96290 12248

MALAYALAM

KNANAYA CHRISTIAN Born Again boy 34/175 attending Born Again Church working in Campus Ministry seeks suitable alliance from Born Again girls. 9495827830.

TAMIL

CSI CHRISTIAN Age 57, Widower, No Child seeking qualified Bride 45 to 50yrs without issues. 96865 88919

HINDU GRAMINI 43/160 Widower 2 Child Business 1Lpm Seeks 35–40yrs without issue/widower bride. 9940137087

ST, 34/172 BE Anusham Govt. Job 20 L PA. Seeks Suitable Girl. Caste No Bar. Ct : 94425 83102

VIJAY TAMIL Arunthathiyar Native Chennai – Central govt. Hyderabad 1,50,000/– monthly – First marriage – seeking bride – Caste No bar – Contact 8977033982 WhatsApp only with Bride's Photo / Horoscope

BRIDE WANTED Rich Mudaliyar, 41yrs, BE, MS(US), Divorce, Elite Business family Ct: 9962791888/ 7094991999

UNMARRIED PILLAI bride wanted from well educated cultured upper middle class background, for a groom from affluent & business background 34 years MBA, 90L P.A, Own house with properties in Chennai. Ct:7200546209, 9789020569 mailliam501@gmail.com

MSC IT 39, Krithigai 1Son Income 1L PM seeks Fair & Educated Girl, Hindu–No Caste. 6282240871, 9444629712

HINDU NADAR, 41yrs/180cm, Analyst Programmer in Australia, Divorcee (no issues), seeks CNB, good-looking, well-qualified professional in the software field. Ct: 9902047595

TAMIL

HINDU PILLAI, 33/180, B.E., Sr. Er, Working in MNC, UAE, 58 LPA, Handsome, Clean habits, Hastham star, Chevvai 8th Place, Settled family, Madurai Native, Looking for educated Bride from Vellalar, Pillai, BC community. Cell: 91-9688597852.

SEEKING HINDU Tamil graduate (preferably working) Bride for 34 years old, 172 cm , Engineer, working in a IT firm in Australia as a Solution Architect. Caste no bar. Kindly contact 9789925584

GOUNDAR TAMIL 53 yrs, BSc, MBA, IT proff Australia, Divorce, seeking bride. WhatsApp: +61422909407

GAVARA NAIDU, 40/180, Uthiradam, Maharam,B.E.,M.S(Engg), Chief Engr. MNC Chennai, 15L PA, First marriage seeks Naidu Bride. Ct: 9487272897

HINDU NADAR, 30yrs, MBBS, MS, Seeks MBBS Preferable, Chennai or Any District. Ct: 9363570731

MUDALIAR 38 BE/MBA, 174cm, Smart, 20Lacs PA Well Settled seeks Bride, Caste no Bar 8778514465/ 7200866346

BRIDE WANTED Elite Mudaliyar 34yrs M.Tech, Ph.d, Sr.Scientist Well Educated Family 9710093999/ 9710091999

HINDU, SAIVA Pillai, 25 Yrs/178 CMS/ M.S(CS from Georgia Tech), Software Engineer, Boston, brought up in New Delhi seek professionally qualified bride with good family values working in USA from the same domain. CT. kg2024@rediffmail.com Mob: 9818447280

AGAMUDAIYAR UTHIRADAM 34/180, B.Tech, TCS, Hyderabad, 2L pm, seeks Equally Qualified bride, Caste No bar. Contact: 8220984182

MUDHALIAR 46 BE MS Australia Remarriage one son with his Mom seeks Suitable Bride CNB Geetham: 9884858014

B.E, 37YRS 5.8 Pillai (Sozhiya Vellalar) Employed & Upper Middle Class Family Seeks Suitable Bride, Star: Swathi (Caste No Bar) 9843252888

BE,MS,HINDU, BALIJA Naidu, Seeks Suitable Bride for Only Son Well Settled Ct:9445728514 / 9445716965

TELUGU

33yrs Girl B.E., M.S., working in USA, Divorced &no Kids seeks Telugu/ Tamil groom must work in USA. 8870086808

NAIDU 25/165 Fair Beautifull ,MBBS, MS–Doing, 700000.PA, Well Settled Family, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

Naidu Girl, Good Looking, 28/165cm, Aswini, BE, ME, Pursuing PhD, Doctoral Studies in Satellite Communications Neuromorphic Computing - European Space Agency- Europe seeking suitable Groom PhD / MS in best colleges in USA from good family back ground. Contact: 98401 03686 / email: bvraj1962@gmail.com

TELUGU

Telugu Arya Vysya / Nuclear Family/ Dec 95 / 175 cms/ Very Fair/ Slim / Beautiful SAP–Team Lead in MNC/ Well to do. Seeks – 180-185 cms - M Tech, IIT, IIM,CA, B.Tech. Cosmopolitan Decent Family. Preferably Settled in Chennai / Bangalore / Pune. Email : tgsfin@gmail.com / WApp : +91 7305951889

URDU

URUDU KHAN Family 26/170cms, Fair girl Seeks Indian well settled, US Profile Groom. Contact: 95000 88086

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GENERAL

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that my client Sri Shivkumar Dharmoji intends to purchase the schedule property, which is mentioned below from owners Sri Jagadeesh and Smt Sangeetha and has entered an sale agreement on 08-08-2024. The owners represent that schedule property is free from any encumberance, Mortgage, charge, lien or litigation except this sale agreement with my client. They have not entered into any sort of agreement\MOU\, Deeds, etc for transfer of the schedule property. Any persons having any objection, claim,right, title and \or interest with respect to the schedule property or any part or portion thereof by way of sale, conveyance, acquisition, partition, transfer, exchange, mortgage, pledge, charge, encumberance, inheritance, succession, lease, easement or demands or objections or claims of any nature whatsoever for the proposed transcation shall lodge their claims\ objection, demands with the undersigned supported by documentary evidence within **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice failing, which, my client shall proceed with the above mentioned transaction as though there are no claims, objections, demands to the proposed transaction.

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All that piece and parcel of the immovable residential vacant property bearing House List No-18, Khata No-550\1, Situated at Vijayashree Layout, Arakere Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, presently BBMP Khata No-516\506\503\29\1\18\550\1, Arakere Sub-Division, Ward No-193, PID No-503\29\1\18\550\1 Bangalore, Measuring East to West on the Northern Side 34 Feel, on the Southern Side 33 Feet, North to South 30 Feet, Totally 1005 Sq Ft, together with all rights, privileges and appurtenances thereto whether underneath or above the surface, bounded on the

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West by : House List No-35 belongs to K.Ramakrishna
North by : House list No-19 belongs to Sarogini
South by : House list No-17 belongs to N.Lingaiah

B.H. RAJENDRA
Advocate & Notary
#71, 3rd Main, B.H.C.S. Layout
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Landslip disrupts train services on Bengaluru-Mangaluru section again

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

Even as the restoration work was in progress, landslips continued to occur at the spot. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Train services on the Bengaluru-Mangaluru section were disrupted following a landslip between Ballupete and Sakleshpur stations on Saturday, leaving hundreds of passengers stranded. As many as six trains on the sector were stopped at different locations.

The incident occurred within a couple of days after services on the section were resumed on August 8, after a 12-day gap. Following a landslip between Yedakumari and Kadagaravalli during heavy rains, the services have been stopped since July 26.

Around 12.30 a.m. on Saturday, a landslip occurred between Sakleshpur and Ballupete stations. South Western Railway officials stopped the trains on the stretch. Trains heading towards Mangaluru from Bengaluru were stopped in Hassan and at Alur. Similarly, those heading towards Bengaluru were stopped at Donigal and Sakleshpur stations. As many as six trains were stopped at different locations.

Trains affeccted

The KSR Bengaluru-Kannur Express (16511) was stopped at Alur. SMVT Bengaluru-Murdeshwar Express (16585) was stopped in Hassan. The Murdeshwar-SMVT Bengaluru Express (16586) and the Kannur-KSR Bengaluru Express (16512) were stopped at Sakleshpur. The Karwar-KSR Bengaluru Panchaganga Super-Fast Express (16596) was stopped at Donigal.

It took some time for passengers to realise that their journey had been delayed.

The SWR staff informed them about the landslip that affected the services.

Rohit Singh Rawat, a student from Rajasthan, posted on X, formerly Twitter, that he was on his way to Mangaluru by the KSR Bengaluru-Kannur Express (16511) to appear for the Air Force Common Admission Test, scheduled to begin at 8.30 a.m. As the train was delayed, he could not take the test. He sought help from the Railway Ministry, as this was his last attempt.

Like him, hundreds of passengers were stranded at the railway stations for long hours.

The SWR officials arranged for breakfast and lunch for passengers. By afternoon, they had arranged 26 KSRTC buses so that passengers could continue their journey. According to a bulletin issued by the SWR, around 1,980 passengers travelled by us. Besides, refunds for 189 tickets amounting to a total of ₹1.15 lakh were initiated.

Many passengers, unable to wait for alternative arrangements by SWR, hired private taxis to reach their destinations.

KERC: Spend money on upgrading infrastructure than on smart meters

Bescom had planned to install them under the Centre's Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

In the last two years, Bescom replaced over 17 lakh old electro-mechanical meters with new-age digital meters in Bengaluru Metropolitan Area Zone. FILE PHOTO

Even after years of deliberations, smart meters are not a reality in Bengaluru.

Although the Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) had announced that 17.5 lakh smart meters will be installed in non-residential buildings by 2023 and 55 lakh smart meters will be installed in residential buildings in the years after that, there has been no progress so far.

Bescom had earlier planned to install the smart meters under the Central government's Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS). While the proposal submitted by the power utility to the State Cabinet in 2021 for implementation of the scheme is yet to be approved, Bescom had taken approval from Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) for installation of smart meters in government offices and H.S.R. Layout division outside of the scheme.

But in the recent tariff order, KERC applied brakes on the project.

KERC chairman P. Ravikumar explained, "It looks like RDSS is not an option as of now. We would have to spend our own money to install smart meters, and that is not economically viable. Ultimately, the burden will fall on the consumer."

In the last two years, Bescom has replaced over 17 lakh old electro-mechanical meters with new-age digital meters in Bengaluru Metropolitan Area Zone (BMAZ). Mr. Ravikumar said that with these replacements already having taken place, it would be unnecessary expenditure to replace them with smart meters.

"Each smart meter costs ₹6,000, and it will not add any revenue to escoms. Smart meters are expected to help with reducing power theft, but the loss of revenue is only 10% as of now, and theft is not high in the BMAZ region. We could think about identifying places where the theft is high and install smart meters. Other than that, our focus now is on spending money on infrastructure upgradation, like replacement of power lines which are 30 to 40 years old," Mr. Ravikumar said.

While Bescom officials did not have a definite answer about why the Cabinet approval is pending for the RDSS scheme, a source said that even if the Cabinet approves, pending dues of Bescom, around ₹6,800 crore, will act as a roadblock to the project in the later stages.

What is the future of smart meters in Bengaluru then?

Mr. Ravikumar says that while it will not be a one-shot project, temporary meters provided during construction of buildings will be converted into smart meters when a permanent connection is provided. Prepaid smart meters, which can be bought by the consumers, are also expected to beome a reality soon.

'Wrong impressions created about my report without studying it properly'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

"There were landslips in the Western Ghats region even earlier. In 1984, there were landslips in Kodagu and again in 2019 and 2020. However, there were not so many deaths and not much attention given to the matter. But now, after hundreds of people died in the landslip at Wayanad in Kerala, discussions about my report have begun," said ecologist Madhav Gadgil on Saturday.

He was speaking during a discussion on the Western Ghats ecosystem, organised by Parisarakkagi Naavu Balaga, a collective of environmentalists.

'Not even studied'

Mr. Gadgil, who was the chairman of the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP), also said that a wrong impression that the recommendations of his report could not be implemented had been created without even studying his report. He said that this had delayed the report's implementation.

"The disasters in Western Ghats can be avoided if the recommendations of this report are implemented. Under the guise of tourism, a lot of development activities and construction of resorts have taken place in the sensitive and extremely sensitive regions of the Western Ghats which are causing landslips. Such activities should be prohibited," Mr. Gadgil said.

Journalist Nagesh Hegde said that the onus to get rid of the misperceptions about the Gadgil report is on the State government.

"A five-member committee comprising a government official, an ecologist, a politician, an environment activist, and a journalist should be formed with the sole purpose of creating a simple and comprehensive summary of the Gadgil report in Kannada. Within two months, they should bring out a handbook in simple language and this should be released at the taluk level. The government should direct all panchayat members to attend these release events," Mr. Hegde said.

He also said that all government offices in Western Ghats should compulsorily have rainwater and solar energy harvesting systems.

T.V. Ramachandra from the Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, said: "Studies conducted in 2009-10 revealed that the forest cover in the Western Ghats region has decreased. In two decades, and evergreen forest cover has reduced by 5 to 8%. Not only are the forests destroyed, but they are also becoming fragmented."

Timings
BENGALURU

SUNDAY, AUG. 11
RISE 06:07 SET 18:42
RISE 11:16 SET 23:05

MONDAY, AUG. 12
RISE 06:07 SET 18:42
RISE 12:04 SET 23:45

TUESDAY, AUG. 13
RISE 06:07 SET 18:41
RISE 12:57 SET 00:00

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	24
Mysuru	30	21
Bengaluru	29	21

Bengaluru Today
28°C The weather will be comfortable with cloudy sky. Night will be pleasant. Few spells of moderate rain and thundershower will occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
27°C Day will be slight warm with cloudy sky. Night will be pleasant. Spell of light to moderate rain and thundershower to occur.

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E-Tender Notice

Sports Authority of India, NSSC, Bangalore invites e-tender for following works: -

1. SAI/NSSC/ENGG/NIT-04/2024-25 for Renovation of The Building For towards the Opening of Creche at SAI, NSSC, Bangalore. For more details please visit E-Tender website

http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app,
https://sportsauthorityofindia.nic.in &
http://www.saisouth-bangalore.com.

The Last date of Submission of **E-Tender is 26.08.2024 up to 16.00 hrs.**

Sd/- Deputy Director-Infra

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता का कार्यालय,
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, हजारीबाग
शुद्धि पत्र

इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक–1061, दिनांक–24.07.2024 द्वारा आमंत्रित ई–निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना सं0–04/2024-25/RWD/EE/HAZARIBAG, दिनांक–24.07.2024, जिसका PR No-330717 Rural Work Department (24-25).D से प्रकाशित निविदा में निम्नवत् संशोधन की जाती है–

1. वेबसाईट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि :– 13.08.2024
2. ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय :–23.08.2024 अपराह्न 5.00 बजे तक ।
3. निविदा खोलने की, तिथि, एवं समय–24.08.2024 अपराह्न 5.30 बजे ।

शेष सभी शर्तें यथावत रहेगी ।

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाईट jharkhandtenders.gov.in में देखा जा सकता है ।

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PR 332381 Rural Work Department(24-25)D

झारखण्ड सरकार
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, जमशेदपुर

ई–निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
ई–निविदा संख्या:- 06/2024-25/RWD/EE/JSR दिनांक :- 08.08.2024

कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, जमशेदपुर द्वारा निम्न विवरण के अनुसार e-procurement पद्धति से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र0 सं0	आईडेन्टीफिकेशन संख्या / पैकेज संख्या	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (रूपये में) अंक में	प्राक्कलित राशि (रूपये में) अक्षर में	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि
1.	RWD/ JAMSHEDPUR/ 11/2024-25	धोबनी पंचायत में धोबनी नेत्रा टोला से दुर्गा आटा तक पथ निर्माण कार्य। (लं–4.500 कि0मी0)	4,35,57,100.00	चार करोड़ पैंतीस लाख सन्तावन हजार एक सौ रू0 मात्र	15 माह
2.	RWD/ JAMSHEDPUR/ 12/2024-25	चलगोड़ा चौक से धनियाबेड़ा तक पथ निर्माण कार्य। (लं–3.800 कि0मी0)	3,80,09,200.00	तीन करोड़ अस्सी लाख नौ हजार दो सौ रू0 मात्र	15 माह
5.	RWD/ JAMSHEDPUR/ 13/2024-25	मुसाबनी प्रखण्ड श्वासपुर मध्य विद्यालय से गुरूद्वारा नीचे टोला भाया सी0टी0सी0 गेट नं0–2 तक पथ निर्माण कार्य। (लं–2.650 कि0मी0)	2,75,40,600.00	दो करोड़ पचहत्तर लाख चालीस हजार छः सौ रू0 मात्र	15 माह

2. वेबसाईट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि :– 14.08.2024 ।
3. ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय :– 05.09.2024 अपराह्न 5.00 बजे तक ।
4. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि jharkhandtenders.gov.in के माध्यम से ऑनलाइन मोड में स्वीकार की जाएगी ।
5. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :– 06.09.2024 अपराह्न 5.00 बजे ।
6. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :–कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, जमशेदपुर, ब्लॉक–करनडीह, थाना–परसुडीह, जमशेदपुर, झारखण्ड, पिन–831002 ।
7. ई–निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं0– 0657–2298902 ।
8. विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाईट jharkhandtenders.gov.in में देखा जा सकता है ।

PR.NO.332387 Rural Development(24-25):D

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B.TECH & M.TECH (Gate & Non - Gate) SPOT ADMISSION 2024

Advt.No. – IIITNR/Admission/B.Tech/2024/

All B. Tech and M. Tech vacant seats will be allotted on **14th August 2024 (Wednesday)** at the IIIT-NR premises. Candidates from All over India with a valid JEE (Main) 2024 rank are eligible to apply for B. Tech. An eligible graduate with or without a valid gate score can apply for M Tech. Online Applications will be Open on **7th August 2024 and** closed on **13th August 2024, 5 PM.** For more details, visit **https://www.iiitnr.ac.in/content/b-tech-admission-2024** or **https://www.iiitnr.ac.in/content/mtech-admission-2024** or contact 0771-2474182

Registrar

e-Procurement Cell
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
SPECIAL WORKS DIVISION, BUILDING CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT Ranchi

e-Procurement Notice
(Very-Very Short Notice)

Notice Inviting Tender Reference No:- BCD/EE, Special Works Div, BCD, Ranchi-RFP10/2024-25 Date:-08.08.24

***Online** bids are invited by Executive Engineer, Special Works Division, Building Construction Department, Ranchi for appointing **"Consultancy Service for Preparation of DPR & PMC Services for Construction of Jharkhand Bhawan at Mumbai."** from qualified reputed Consultancy firms.*

Date of Procurement of RFP Document	*From 16.08.2024 , 10.00 A.M.*
Last date of online submission of RFP and Bid Document	*27.08.2024 upto 12.00 Noon*
Date and Time of Opening of Technical	*28.08.2024 at 12.00 Noon*
Date of Pre Bid meeting	*21.08.2024 at 11.30 A.M.*
Place of Opening	From 2.5 crore upto 5 crore : - e-procurement cell office of the chief engineer, Combined Office Building, Building Construction Department, Line Tank Road, Ranchi Above 5 crore : - Chairman, e-procurement Cell, Room No. 326A, 3rd Floor, Building Construction Department, Jharkhand Mantralaya, Dhurwa, Ranchi
Cost of RFP Documents	*Rs. 10,000/-*

Note- Cost of Bidding Document (Not Refundable) & Bid Security (Security Deposit) shall be payable online through http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in
Any change can be seen on Website ***http:// jharkhandtenders.gov.in***
Any other information can be seen on http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in

Nodal Officer, E-procurement Cell
Office Of Executive Engineer,
Special Works Division
Building Construction Department, Ranchi.

PR 332404 Building(24-25)D

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client has entered into agreement to purchase the Schedule Properties from its owners: **(1) Smt.R.PADMA**, W/o Sri.R.Pandu, residing at: No.6/6, Mahanth Layout, Basavanagudi, Bangalore-560019; **(2) Smt. R.VIMALA**, W/o Sri.P.Sridhar, residing at No.6/1, Mahantha Layout, Kempegowdanagar, Bull Temple Road, Bangalore-560019; and **(3)Smt. J.KRUTHIKA**, D/o late P.Jaganathan, residing at: 126/16, Mahantha Layout, Bull Temple Road, K.G.Nagar, Gavipuram Extension, Bengaluru-560019.

Apart from the aforesaid owners, if any other person/s have any manner of right, title, interest or claim or charge or either by way of Agreement or Mortgage or maintenance or any other right or charge or lien in or over the Schedule property, they are hereby called upon to file their objection/s in writing, along with the supporting legal documents on which they rely, with the undersigned, within **14 days** from the date of Publication of this Notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE

Item No.1 property owned by **Smt. R.PADMA:**

All that piece and parcel of the residential property bearing Municipal No.6 (portion of property bearing Old No.78 thereafter No.93) PID No.49-5-6, measuring East to West 58 ft and North to South 35 ft, with a building thereon, situated at Mahantha Layout, Bangalore and bounded on:

East by : Road
West by : Compound of Mahantha Narayan Dasji Varu
North by : Property bearing No.6/1 of Smt.R.Vimala
South by : Compound of Mahantha Narayana Dasji Varu

Item No.2 property owned by **Smt. R.VIMALA:**

All that piece and parcel of the residential property bearing Municipal No.6/1 (portion of the property bearing Old No.78, thereafter No.93, later on No.6), PID No.49-5-6/1, measuring East to West 58 ft and North to South 25 ft, with a building thereon, situated at Mahantha Layout, Bangalore and bounded on:

East by : Road
West by : Compound of Mahantha Narayan Dasji Varu
North by : Land of Sri.Mallaraiah
South by : Property bearing No.6 of Smt.R.Padma

Item No.3 property owned by **Smt.J.KRUTHIKA:**

All that piece and parcel of the residential property bearing Municipal No.126/16, PID No.49-6-126/16, measuring East to West: 60 ft and North to South: 23½ ft, with a building thereon, situated at Bull Temple Road, Bangalore-560004 and bounded on:

East by : Road
West by : Property of Sri.R.Ramdas
North by : Property bearing No.6 of Smt.P.Padma
South by : Property bearing No.123/3 of Sri.J.K.Jain and new building.

Sd/- **S.F. GOUTAM CHAND**
Advocate
GOUTAM ASSOCIATES
No.60, 2nd Floor, Kanakapura Road,
Basavanagudi, Bangalore-560 004.

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ISSN 0971 - 751X

I will ensure Siddaramaiah retires before me: Yediyurappa

BJP veteran challenges the Chief Minister to dissolve the Legislative Assembly and seek a fresh mandate

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

In unison: Leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party and Janata Dal (Secular) at the valedictory programme of their padayatra in Mysuru on Saturday. M.A. SRIRAM

I may be 82, but I still have the strength to tour across the State and fight to ensure your exit as the Chief Minister," said veteran BJP leader B.S. Yediyurappa on Saturday while attacking Chief Minister Siddaramaiah over his recent remarks against him.

Mr. Siddaramaiah had recently demanded Mr. Yediyurappa to retire from politics citing the pending POCSO case against him on the charge of molesting a 17-year-old.

In response, Mr. Yediyurappa, at the Mysuru Chalo padayatra valedictory programme here, said he would "not retire from politics as long as he lives" and added that he would ensure Mr. Siddaramaiah retires from politics before him.

Mr. Yediyurappa further challenged Mr. Siddaramaiah to dissolve the Legislative Assembly and seek a fresh mandate. "If elections happen now, the BJP and JD(S) alliance will come to power by winning about 130-140 seats. The people are fed up with the misrule of the Congress government with corruption at the highest levels and development works coming to a grinding halt," said the veteran leader.

'No development work'

Lashing out at Mr. Siddaramaiah as well as Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, he said no development works would happen until these two leaders stepped down from the office. The people of the State would show the door to the Congress government, he said.

On the alleged scam in the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA), Mr. Yediyurappa said there were no examples of Chief Ministers or past Chief Ministers in the country getting so many sites allotted in their wives' or family members' names. "Show me one example, at least. On top of it, Mr. Siddaramaiah demands ₹62 crore in return for the sites. Whose money is it Mr. Siddaramaiah to give it to you," the former Chief Minister questioned.

Chief Minister warns Opposition leaders of action if their 'wrongdoing' is proven in probes

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has warned leaders of the Opposition BJP and JD(S), allegedly involved in scams, that the government will take action against them if their "wrongdoing" is proven in the ongoing inquiries.

Speaking to reporters in Mysuru on Saturday, Mr. Siddaramaiah said there were several scams in which leaders of the Opposition were involved and vowed to expose all of them.

Investigation on

"I have revealed a few yesterday and a few more are under investigation. Once the reports are received, we will take action against whoever is involved in wrongdoing," Mr. Siddaramaiah said, before naming Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy, former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, BJP State unit president B.Y. Vijayendra, and Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R. Ashok among the Opposition leaders involved in "scams".

On the allegations of the Opposition BJP-JD(S) during their padayatra and the rally here, he said, "We have decided to fight these allegations both politically and legally."

Congress trying to suppress MUDA 'scam', says HDK; continues tirade against DKS

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

All ears: Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy with senior BJP leader B.S. Yediyurappa at a programme in Mysuru on Saturday. M.A. SRIRAM

Janata Dal (Secular) leader and Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy has accused the Congress of being "mired in corruption" and downplaying the "scam" in the distribution of sites by the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA).

He was speaking at the joint convention of the BJP and JD(S) held here on Saturday to mark the culmination of the padayatra by the allies held to highlight the alleged corruption of the Siddaramaiah-led government and to seek the resignation of the Chief Minister.

Personal attacks

Mr. Kumaraswamy, who had come under attack by Deputy Chief Minister and KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar at the same venue on Friday, in what was a continuation of the slugfest underlining their mutual acrimony, dedicated a good portion of his speech to hit back, peppered with several personal swipes.

Referring to Mr. Shivakumar's remarks that the Congress won 136 seats under him whereas the JD(S) could manage only 19 seats, Mr. Kumaraswamy said, "But Mr. Shivakumar should speak on what happened in the Lok Sabha elections where the Congress won only nine seats and the NDA won 19."

Referring to the MUDA issue, Mr. Kumaraswamy questioned the defence of Mr. Siddaramaiah that his brother-in-law had purchased the land and gifted it to his wife. "The said land had already been converted as plots and sold by MUDA and one wonders how it could be purchased by anyone. Mr. Siddaramaiah may not have affixed his signature, but every transaction has taken place under his nose and in his favour," remarked Mr. Kumaraswamy.

"Congress leaders have attacked the Deve Gowda family and challenged me from this stage. I have accepted the challenge and will expose them," said Mr. Kumaraswamy waving a set of booklets and papers which, he claimed, pertained to the documents related to Arkavathy Layout denotification scam.

He accused Mr. Siddaramaiah and Mr. Shivakumar of perusing politics of vendetta and alleged that a senior leader like B.S. Yediyurappa had been "framed in a false case" under the POCSO Act in a bid to finish him politically.

Mr. Kumaraswamy also referred to the allegations levelled by Mr. Shivakumar that there were 50 denotification cases pending against him and said similar allegations were made against the combined Opposition by Mr. Siddaramaiah and the Congress in the run-up to the Assembly elections in 2023. "But after being in power for more than 15 months they have been unable to produce any shred of evidence," Mr. Kumaraswamy added.

'Can't take it any more'

Responding in Bengaluru to the attacks on him, Mr. Shivakumar said he could not be intimidated. "I have put up with Mr. Kumaraswamy's criticisms and threats for the last two to three years. But he is desperate after his son's loss in the elections... I showed restraint as I had worked with him when he was the Chief Minister in the coalition government, but I can't take this any more," he said, urging Mr. Kumaraswamy to release any documents that he might have.

'Fake' hearing impairment certificates: Papers of govt. job applicants to be re-checked

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

Under the scanner: Some complaints were cross-checked by getting the candidates identified by government departments re-examined at All-India Institute of Speech and Hearing in Mysuru.

Cracking down on 'fake' hearing impairment medical certificates being allegedly submitted by some candidates to get government jobs and claim benefits under various government schemes, the State Health Department has directed all government hospitals to re-examine certificates furnished by those appointed in various departments and by those who have applied for jobs.

This comes in the wake of a recent meeting where it was brought to the notice of the Health Department that several candidates had allegedly submitted 'fake' hearing impairment certificates to claim benefits.

Issued by govt. doctors

Sources said some complaints were cross-checked by getting the candidates identified by government departments re-examined at the All-India Institute of Speech and Hearing in Mysuru. "Following the re-examination, it was found that the candidates did not have any hearing impairment. Most of the 'fake' certificates were issued by government doctors from Koppal, Raichur, Chitradurga, and Tumakuru," sources said.

"It was also found that many candidates were just getting a pure-tone audiometry (PTA) test, the most commonly used test to measure auditory sensitivity. This is a subjective technique that tests the patient's ability to hear words, frequencies or tones at differing volumes and is not adequate to assess the hearing impairment. We also need to conduct BERA (Brainstem Evoked Response Audiometry) and/or ABER (Auditory Brainstem Evoked Response) tests for a proper assessment of the hearing impairment. These (BERA/ABER) tests are objective methods used to determine how electrical waves are sent from the eighth cranial nerve to the brainstem in response to click noises delivered through the ear," a senior official said.

Health Department has been told that several candidates had allegedly submitted such certificates to claim benefits

Re-examine certificates

Following several such complaints by various government departments, State Health Commissioner Randeep D. recently issued a circular directing heads of all State-run hospitals to re-examine the certificates issued in their institutions and give an objective opinion in accordance with guidelines.

"The re-examination should be done by the medical boards of all district hospitals, government medical college hospitals and taluk hospitals after which an ENT specialist should confirm the assessment," the Commissioner said.

"The board should determine the percentage of hearing loss recorded in the BERA/ABER test report given by audiologists after confirmation by ENT specialists. Only eligible beneficiaries should be issued the hearing impairment medical certificates by the medical board through the Unique Disability ID portal – https://www.swavlambancard.gov.in/registration," he said.

"If any lapses are found in the issuance of a disability medical certificate, the officer/staff concerned will be held responsible and disciplinary action taken against them," the Commissioner added.

Two suspended after video of eggs being taken back from children's plates goes viral

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

Anganwadi worker Lakshmi and her assistant Shahanaz Begum attached to Gundur anganwadi in Karatagi taluk of Koppal district have been suspended after a video clip in which the latter is seen taking boiled eggs back from children's plates went viral.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Koppal Deputy Commissioner Nalin Atul and Chief Executive Officer of Koppal Zilla Panchayat Rahul Ratnam Pandey confirmed the incident. Programme Officer in the office of the Deputy Director of Women and Child Development in Koppal Gangappa said the incident happened a week ago and the video clip went viral on Thursday. Anganwadis in the district function under this office. In the video clip, children in the anganwadi, with boiled eggs served on their plates, are seen reciting 'Asatoma Sadgamaya...' and later, the anganwadi assistant is seen picking up the eggs from their plates after the completion of the prayer. The anganwadi worker is also seen in the video.

The incident is said to have occurred a week ago at Gundur anganwadi in Karatagi taluk of Koppal district

"We exactly don't know when this incident happened. As per a preliminary inquiry, the incident happened a week ago... The Deputy Commissioner and the Chief Executive Officer of the zilla panchayat have directed the office of the Deputy Director of Women and Child Development to act swiftly. Accordingly, both the anganwadi worker and her assistant have been suspended, pending inquiry," Mr. Gangappa told *The Hindu*.

Mr. Gangappa said several people in the village complained against the anganwadi worker and her assistant when he visited the village on Friday for the inquiry.

Taking the incident seriously, Minister for Women and Child Development Laxmi Hebbalkar has directed the Koppal district officers to look into the incident and take stringent action immediately.

"I have directed the officials concerned to suspend the anganwadi worker and her assistant. I have also directed to take stringent action against the Child Development Project Officer," Ms. Hebbalkar has said in her media communiqué on Saturday.

Kannada University to launch programme to promote reading habit among college students

Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU

On students' doorstep: Madhava Peraje, Director of Prasaranga, Kannada University, Hampi, with the books published by the Prasaranga. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

To develop reading habit among college students, Kannada University, Hampi, has decided to launch a 'Mane Manege Pustaka' (books to every house) programme, particularly in the Kalyana Karnataka region districts.

Prasaranga, the publication wing of the Kannada University, has planned to launch the programme in government, aided, and private degree colleges in Vijayanagara and Ballari districts to start with. Books published in Kannada on various topics would be offered to students at 50% discount price.

On a pilot basis, the faculty members of the Prasaranga conducted the programme in a couple of colleges a few months ago. Since it received a positive response from students, the university has decided to officially launch the programme on a full-scale for the benefit of students as well as to reach villages where there are prospective buyers.

Slim volumes

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Prasaranga director Madhava Peraje said small books with 30-50 pages written in Kannada on various topics would be displayed in the college and an awareness programme conducted for students on the benefits of reading books. The price of the books would be less than ₹50.

It has published a series of publications such as *Mantapamale, Nammavaru Male,* and *Navasaksharа* to cater to the interests of students and common people.

Stating that reading habit among the youngsters has been declining owing to the Internet, gadgets, and addiction to social media, Dr. Peraje said, "We are catering to the interests of students by delivering books on the doorstep of colleges."

Established in 1992, the Prasaranga has published over 1,500 books. It has published books on areas such as Kannada language, literature, culture, fine arts, history, archaeology, Dravidian studies, Jainism, manuscripts, tribal studies, folklore, women, environment, medicine, and developmental studies.

To market books published over the years, the university has placed a proposal before the Kalyana Karnataka Region Development Board to sell 290 books on various topics to 350 colleges in the region. The estimated cost of these books would be around ₹1.2 crore. The State government has set aside ₹5,000 crore for the KKRDB in 2024-25. Board chairman Ajay Singh has approved the proposal, Prasaranga officials said. However, the Deputy Commissioners of the districts of Bidar, Kalaburagi, Raichur, Yadgir, Ballari, Vijayanagara, and Koppal have not yet cleared the proposal on purchasing books from the university, a varsity official said.

The Prasaranga holds a 'Pustaka Samskruthi Yaatre' (book tour) to reach readers in villages and remote areas, said M.M. Shivaprakash of the publication wing.

Indian team's mobile app to reduce risk of diseases wins award

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

An India-led global team of research scientists has won the Health Information Technology in Action award from Johns Hopkins Center for Digital Health and AI for their paper describing the effectiveness of a gamified virtual reality mobile app administered to students to reduce risk of infectious diseases.

A team of researchers and scientists led by inventor and serial deep-tech entrepreneur Bhargav Sri Prakash from FriendsLearn, along with Rema Padman from the Carnegie Mellon University Heinz College and Rahul Ladhania from the University of Michigan School of Public Health, has won the Health Information Technology in Action award at the 14th Conference on Health IT and Analytics, for their peer-reviewed conference paper titled "Effect of AI Enabled, School Based, Mobile Health Gameplay on Infectious Disease Knowledge", according to the release.

The team's work with 'digital vaccines' demonstrates the potential of lowering incidence of a wide range of pathologies. Mr. Sri Prakash said: "Our breakthrough with digital vaccines continues to pave new frontiers in showcasing the power of artificial intelligence in preventing disease for future generations around the world, safely, effectively, ethically and responsibly, which continues to be the motivation for our team of deep-tech engineers and scientists."

He explained: "A 11-week longitudinal trial was undertaken in partnership with Usha Sriram at the Voluntary Health Services Hospital, Chennai, at the Panchayat Union Middle School [PUMS], a government school catering to underprivileged children in Sriperumbudur, near Chennai. The study involved nearly 250 children in grades 1-8." The data showed that the app - fooya! - had managed to influence health learning among the children.

"Enhancing the health literacy of both children and adults is a public health challenge worldwide. Enabling this critical need via gamified digital therapeutic approaches requires large-scale experiments in the real world to generate strong evidence of benefit," said Prof. Padman. "This has motivated us to conduct several randomised field trials in the U.S., India, Botswana and other countries. The significant and promising results continue to inspire us to pursue the research, development and deployment efforts for societal benefit".

Dr. Ladhania added: "... Our results showed that a mobile game that embeds implicit learning in the game mechanism can positively impact children's health learning outcomes and showed strong evidence for training students early on."

Central team inspects relief works in flood-hit Wayanad

Inter-Ministerial team completes three-day visit to the disaster-hit region in Kerala; a total of 30 persons have been rescued, 520 persons evacuated and 112 bodies retrieved by the NDRF teams

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

An Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) constituted by the Central government to inspect relief works in flood-hit areas of Wayanad district in Kerala completed their three-day (August 8-10) visit on Saturday.

Till now, a total of 30 persons have been rescued, 520 persons evacuated and 112 bodies retrieved by the NDRF rescue teams.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacts with a child affected by the recent landslide, at AWS Hospital in Wayanad on Saturday. PTI

Released ₹1,200 crore

Data from the Ministry of Home Affairs indicates that over the past five years, the Union government released around ₹1,200 crore as the Centre's share in the State Disaster Response Force out of the total State Disaster Response Fund of ₹1,780 crore.

"This year, on April 1, Kerala SDRF account had around ₹395 crore. The first instalment of Central share of SDRF for the ongoing year of over ₹145.60 crore was released in advance on July 31," Ministry officials said.

The Centre also released a sum of ₹445 crore for State Disaster Mitigation Fund in the past five years.

On July 30, due to incessant and heavy to extremely heavy rainfall, a major landslide occurred at Mundakki, Chooralmala, Vellarimala Village, in Wayanad.

The Central government immediately sprung into action through the deployment of over 1,200 rescuers of NDRF, Army, Air Force, Navy, Fire services, Civil Defence, among others for rescue and relief operations at the incident site.

Medical support

More than 100 ambulances along with doctors and other medical staff were deployed for medical support and treatment.

The Indian Army erected a 190-foot Bailey bridge in Wayanad, which has been crucial in facilitating the movement of heavy machinery and ambulances.

"Construction of this bridge was completed in just 71 hours, significantly enhancing the rescue operations by allowing heavy vehicles and machinery to be mobilised to rescue around 200 people who were stranded due to damage of the bridge," officials said.

PM Modi's visit offers optimism for rehabilitation

Biju Govind
KOZHIKODE

The visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the landslides-devastated villages in Wayanad on Saturday to evaluate the relief and rehabilitation operations and connect with survivors gave a glimmer of hope to the State government to initiate comprehensive rehabilitation in the region.

Defying protocol, Mr. Modi also extended his visit to Wayanad by more than two-and-a-half hours than the scheduled time.

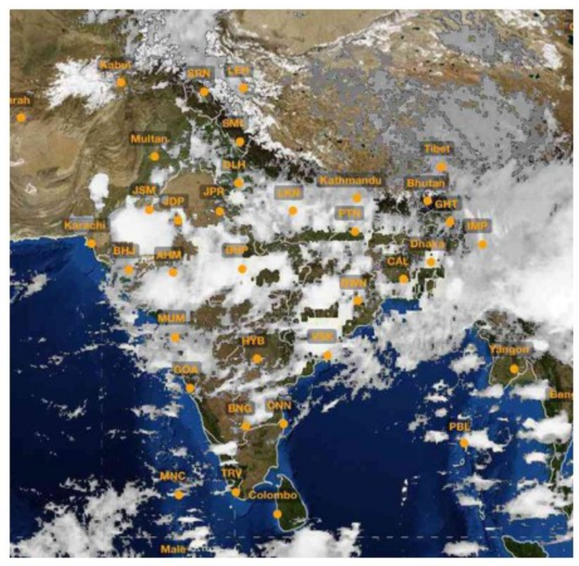
While the CPI(M) State leadership is yet to officially comment on Mr. Modi's visit, Minister for Tourism and Public Works P.A. Mohamed Riyas reacted positively to the day's developments.

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi thanked Mr. Modi for visiting Wayanad. "I am confident that once the Prime Minister sees the extent of the devastation first-hand, he will declare it a national disaster," he posted on X.

BJP State president K. Surendran said Mr. Modi's visit was both timely and impactful.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, central Maharashtra, Konkan & Goa, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Mahe

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	32.0	26.0	Kozhikode	8	32.4	24.4
Ahmedabad	9	32.7	26.1	Kurnool	6	33.7	24.7
Aizawl	—	29.2	23.4	Lucknow	20	31.8	25.4
Allahabad	6	32.2	25.9	Madurai	—	37.2	25.5
Bengaluru	0.3	28.5	21.0	Mangaluru	—	29.8	23.5
Bhopal	—	29.4	23.4	Mumbai	3	30.0	26.6
Bhubaneswar	—	33.3	26.1	Mysuru	—	28.9	21.0
Chandigarh	14	34.0	26.4	New Delhi	17	32.8	25.8
Chennai	1.8	34.0	26.5	Patna	17	33.0	26.8
Coimbatore	—	32.8	24.2	Port Blair	9	31.5	23.7
Dehradun	8	30.5	24.1	Puducherry	—	32.7	23.2
Gangtok	2	22.2	18.4	Pune	4.8	28.7	21.8
Goa	43	30.7	25.0	Raipur	2	32.0	25.5
Guwahati	2	32.6	26.6	Ranchi	2	29.9	23.4
Hubballi	—	29.0	22.0	Shillong	3	23.2	17.5
Hyderabad	0.8	32.7	23.5	Shimla	53	23.5	20.5
Imphal	—	30.1	25.6	Srinagar	—	34.8	22.8
Jaipur	7.1	28.8	24.6	Thiruvananthapuram	—	32.3	25.2
Kochi	—	29.4	25.2	Tiruchi	—	37.1	25.6
Kohima	2	24.0	17.1	Vijayawada	1	34.6	26.4
Kolkata	0.2	33.0	27.2	Visakhapatnam	—	35.2	28.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.36	..20	38	 58	80	.....
Bengaluru	...9	..32	51	 33	...129	.....
Chennai	...6	6	62	... 131	...124	.....
Delhi	.59	..26	32	 95	94	.....
Hyderabad	...9	..52	80	 35	52	.....
Kolkata	...6	..63	34	 35	60	.....
Lucknow	.11	..28	62	 34	46	.....
Mumbai	...3	..—	37	 58	53	.....
Pune	.10	7	32	 37	64	.....
Visakhapatnam	...9	..50	21	 73	...124	.....

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Keonjhar, Odisha recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 224 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Ariyalur, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 17

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

INBRIEF

TTD cancels Arjitha Sevas at Tirumala from Aug. 14 to 17

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has cancelled certain Arjitha Sevas performed at the Tirumala temple from August 14 to 17. The decision has been taken in view of the three-day annual Pavitrotsavams to be held at the hill temple from August 15 to 17. While the Sahasra Deepalankara Seva is cancelled on August 14, all the daytime rituals remain suspended for the period, including the weekly Thiruppavada Seva on August 15.

Minister predicts KTR's arrest for 'involvement in graft'

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar predicted the arrest of BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao by Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy for his "involvement in large-scale corruption and atrocities" under the BRS regime. He dismissed recent reports of discussions between BJP and BRS for merger as fake news, and termed the BRS as an outdated party that is no longer relevant in the current political landscape. Mr. Sanjay Kumar accused KTR of causing anarchy and corruption during the 10-year BRS rule. "KTR will soon face legal action, potentially leading to his imprisonment," he said.

Techie held for sourcing heroin through dark web

A software engineer from Khammam has been arrested by the Telangana Anti-Narcotics Bureau (TGANB) for purchasing heroin via dark web. Officials said he was arrested on August 8 when he received the parcel, sent from Silpukhuri in Assam through speed post. He had paid for it in cryptocurrency, a top TGANB official said. The sleuths from the bureau dealt with the engineer empathetically, considering his future career prospects. They counselled him and his parents, offering support to help him overcome addiction.

IMD issues orange alert for two districts of Kerala today

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

After a brief lull, the southwest monsoon is likely to be active over the State, especially in central and southern Kerala.

Although the monsoon trough is in its normal position and the offshore trough along the west coast is in sleep mode for Kerala, the monsoon flow into parts of the State is likely to be active in the coming days with atmospheric conditions favouring the formation of an upper cyclonic circulation over southwest Bay of Bengal.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued an orange alert for Palakkad and Malappuram on Sunday warning of very heavy rain, and an yellow alert for Kozhikode, Wayanad and Idukki for isolated heavy rain. Two districts – Pathanamthitta and Idukki – were put on orange alert on Monday, and four districts on Tuesday.

The synoptic conditions are favouring some isolated heavy spells and intense spells across the State, especially in the ghat regions for the next few days. However, there will not be a major surge as the position of monsoon trough and offshore trough, two major features of an active monsoon, is not conducive for generating a relatively long spell, according to IMD.

The State has received a total of 1,339.2 mm of rainfall as of August 10 against the average of 1,480.8 mm during this period. The monsoon is still deficient in Idukki, Ernakulam, Wayanad, and Alappuzha districts.

Plans under way to restart T.N.-Lanka ferry service soon

The Hindu Bureau
NAGAPATTINAM

The passenger ferry service between Nagapattinam and Kankesanthurai in Sri Lanka, suspended days after its launch last year, is expected to resume soon.

A trial run was held on Saturday. The vessel *Sivagangai* departed Nagapattinam port at 7.30 a.m. on Saturday and reached Sri Lanka by noon. It returned to Nagapattinam by evening. The successful trial signals a potential restart of regular passenger services as early as next week.

The service was initially launched on October 14, 2023, with the vessel *Cheriyapani*. But it was suspended just days later due to the northeast monsoon, sources said. Subsequent plans to relaunch it in May 2024 faced delays and eventual cancellation, leading to disappointment among travellers.

Sivagangai, the vessel used in Saturday's trial run, parked near the Nagapattinam fishing harbour. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

S. Niranjan Nanthagopan, managing director of INDSRI Ferry Services Private Limited, which operates the services, was optimistic about the resumption.

"This time we are confident about the resumption. We have secured all necessary international certifications and fulfilled the requirements for the international voyage. The ferry has also been upgraded with newer facilities," Mr. Nanthagopan said.

Sivagangai can accommodate 150 passengers and complete the trip in just four hours.

"We will conduct another trial run on Sunday. The exact date of the resumption will be announced in the coming days," he added.

7 held for possession of Chola-era *Perumal* idol near Thanjavur

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The officers of the Idol Wing-CID (IW-CID) have arrested seven persons for the alleged possession of a stolen Chola-era idol, worth ₹2 crore, near Thanjavur.

After receiving a tip-off, the officers of the Thanjavur Range Idol Wing unit conducted vehicle inspections on Thanjavur-Tiruchi National Highway on Thursday. During the search, they came across a car and two two-wheelers parked at Melathiruvizha Patti. When the police personnel checked the car, which had five passengers, they found a 2.5-feet metal *Perumal* idol.

The police arrested seven persons including J. Rajendran, 52, of Arumbakkam; S. Rajkumar, 36, of Kumbakonam taluk; and A. Dinesh, 28, of Inam Kiliyur. Dinesh, who was one of the passengers in the car, told the police personnel that his father had found the idol 12 years ago along a river in Thozhuvur. He later hid the idol in his cattle shed.

After his father's death, Dinesh and his associates reportedly decided to sell the idol to prospective buyers abroad. Preliminary investigation revealed that the idol dated back to the Chola period.

The officers are also investigating whether the idol was stolen from a temple in Tamil Nadu, the IW-CID said.

Neelakurinji that blooms once in 12 years included in Red List of threatened species

Mini Muringatheri
THRISSUR

Neelakurinji (*Strobilanthes kunthiana*), the purplish flowering shrub which blooms once in 12 years, has been included on the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) official Red List of threatened species. This is the first ever Global Red List assessment for this flagship species of the montane grasslands of southwest India.

The three-metre high endemic shrub is seen only in the high-altitude shola grassland ecosystems of five mountain landscapes of southwest India at an elevation of 1,340 to 2,600 m.

The latest global assessment confirms its threatened status in the Vulnerable (Criteria A2c) category of the IUCN. The mass blooming of the flower is a huge tourist attraction. The blooming was reported recently, though not in a vast spread, at Peerumade in Idukki.

Purple beauty: Neelakurinji (*Strobilanthes kunthiana*) blooms in Idukki. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"The species was considered threatened but was not evaluated against IUCN global standards until this assessment. Its distribution across the montane sky island landscapes in the Western Ghats, its nature of blooming once in 12 years, and lack of ecological studies were the major hindrances to a comprehensive assessment," said Amitha Bachan K.H., who did the assessment.

The scientists, who have been studying the ecology and conservation of some threatened species of the Western Ghats, were part of the Global Red List assessment team.

'Revenue Sadassulu' from Aug. 16

Sambasiva Rao M.
AMARAVATI

The State government issued orders on Saturday instructing the district Collectors to conduct 'Revenue Sadassulu' (revenue meetings) in the State from August 16 to September 30. The meetings will be formally launched at various places by Ministers on August 15. R.P. Sisodia, Special Chief Secretary, Revenue Department, told *The Hindu* that the government intended to conduct Revenue Sadassulu with the objective of resolving all issues pertaining to lands at the village level.

From Page One

Bangladesh CJ quits; Hindus seek safety

During a session with students at Begum Rokeya University in Rangpur on Saturday, he told them: "Are they [minorities] not the people of this country? You have been able to save the country; can't you save some families?"

According to the Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council and the Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad, at least 205 incidents of attacks on minorities have occurred across 52 districts since the fall of the Sheikh Hasina-led government on August 5.

Rana Dasgupta, general secretary of the Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Oikya Parishad, told *The Hindu* that some of those whose homes were attacked may be directly involved in Awami League politics, but 98% are ordinary Hindus. Mr. Yunus visited Rangpur to offer his condolences to the parents of Abu Sayeed, the first student killed in police firing during the recent student protests.

PM offers all possible help for Wayanad

He said the Union government would make all efforts to fulfil all requests from the State government. He added that when he was informed of the landslides, a Minister of State was sent to the State to assess the gravity of the situation. Teams from the NDRF, Army and Air Force were also deployed for rescue and relief operations. "I had discussed with Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan in the morning when the incident took place and assured him of all the possible assistance," he said.

"I want to assure the families of the deceased that they are not alone. The State and Union governments will ensure that no work is hampered due to dearth of money," Mr. Modi added.

He earlier undertook an aerial survey of the areas affected by the landslides, which claimed 239 lives."I saw and experienced a disaster very closely around 47 years ago when a dam at Morbi in Gujarat was destroyed following heavy rain, and Morbi city was flooded. More than 2,500 people died in the catastrophe. I stayed there for about six months as a volunteer. I assure you that the country and the GoI will leave no stone unturned," Mr. Modi added.

93 dead in air strike on Gaza school shelter

With nearly all of Gaza's 2.4 million people displaced during the war started by Hamas's October 7 attack on southern Israel, many have sought refuge in school buildings, which have been hit at least 14 times since July 6.

Israel's military said it took "numerous steps" to mitigate risks as it "precisely struck Hamas terrorists operating within a Hamas command and control centre embedded in the Al-Tabieen school".

'Buch had stake in funds tied to Adani report'

Ms. Buch, the report alleged, had written to India Infoline [IIFL] from the alleged private e-mail account a day earlier, stating that Mr. Buch would like to redeem 100% of the units they held in GDOF. GDOF Cell 90, Hindenburg alleged, was the "exact same Mauritius-registered 'cell' of the fund found several layers deep in a convoluted structure, reportedly used by Vinod Adani", the brother of Gautam Adani named in its report into the Adani group.

Drawing a connection to the Supreme Court's finding that SEBI had "drawn a blank" in its investigations into who funded Adani's offshore shareholders, Hindenburg, which had recently got a show-cause notice from SEBI, remarked: "We find it unsurprising that SEBI was reluctant to follow a trail that may have led to its own chairperson."

E-mails seeking comment sent to SEBI and Ms. Buch's Gmail account, as cited in the Hindenburg report, remained unanswered till the time of going to press.

Hindenburg has also alleged that the SEBI chief had a 100% interest in an offshore Singaporean consulting firm called Agora Partners till March 2022, when she transferred her holding to her spouse. It also alleged that Mr. Buch, who had been the chief procurement officer at Unilever and had never worked in real estate or capital markets before, was appointed as a senior adviser at global private equity firm Blackstone. Blackstone has large investments in India, and sponsors several real estate investment trusts (REITS) that Ms. Buch has championed during her tenure as SEBI chief, Hindenburg argued. While she touted REITs as her "favourite product for the future" and urged investors to look "positively" at them, Ms. Buch omitted to mention that Blackstone stood to gain from the asset class, it alleged.

Hindenburg has also flagged an Indian firm called Agora Advisory, where Ms. Buch currently has a 99% stake and her husband is a director. "At the end of financial year 2022, Agora Advisory generated ₹19.8 million revenue from consulting," Hindenburg alleged, noting this was 4.4 times Ms. Buch's previously disclosed salary as a whole-time member of SEBI.

Hindutva group attacks Muslims in U.P. slum

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Falsely claiming that the residents of a Ghaziabad slum were Bangladeshis, members of the Hindu Raksha Dal thrashed them, damaged their huts, and burnt their household items on Friday. The police lodged an FIR against the accused, and clarified that the victims were Indians.

Pinky Chaudhary, along with 15 to 20 supporters, attacked slumdwellers near the Guldhar station.

The FIR, based on a policeman's complaint, says Mr. Chaudhary and his supporters accused the Muslims in the slum of being Bangladeshi. They then abused them, pushed them, beat them, shouted slogans, and broke huts.

Hope Indian investments in Bangladesh are safe: Nirmala

Finance Minister says that she had got calls on textile garment investments which are mainly from Tamil Nadu; she expects interim government to settle things sooner and restore normalcy

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The unrest in Bangladesh has created some uncertainty for Indian textile firms' investments there, and the Indian government is hopeful that those investments will remain safe and the situation in the neighbouring country will return to normalcy soon, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Saturday.

"I would say at this stage, I have had discussions and calls coming on the matter of our textile garment investments which are in Bangladesh, many of which come from Tamil Nadu. The investments went there in good faith because they thought textiles and garment could do well and they did do well, having gone there," Ms. Sitharaman said.

Trade ties: India supplies 20%-25% of the yarn that Bangladesh uses for producing garments. REUTERS

These investments, the Minister said, also boosted exports from Bangladesh, including shipments to India, because of the duty-free and liberal import quotas India offers for lower income and least developed countries.

While the garments, fabrics and textiles sectors are seeing a "bit of uncertainty" because of the situation, the Minister said: "I hope that the investments are all safe... Other than that, at this stage, it is too early for me to see what kind of impact this situation in Bangladesh will have on our economy."

"I hope that the interim government will settle things sooner rather than later, so that both the people of Bangladesh and India can get back to normalcy," Ms. Sitharaman concluded.

Congress calls for protection of minorities in Bangladesh

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Against the backdrop of the violence against Awami League activists, journalists, and religious and ethnic communities in Bangladesh, the Congress has called upon the interim government led by Muhammad Yunus to take "forceful steps" to deal with the situation.

"While noting that there have been influential voices within Bangladesh calling for the preservation of the country's multi-religious heritage, the Indian National Congress expresses its concern at reports of targeted attacks on minorities there and their properties and places of worship," Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said in a post on X.

2 soldiers killed, four injured in gun battle with militants in J&K

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

Two soldiers were killed and four injured in an ongoing anti-militancy operation in south Kashmir's Anantnag, where a group of militants was engaged in a firefight by the security forces in a forest area on Saturday. "The encounter started at Ahlan Gagarmandu area of Anantnag district. Police and security forces are on the job," a police spokesperson said.

Security personnel during a military encounter in Anantnag district on Saturday. PTI

Two civilians were injured in the crossfire, officials said.

They said the skirmish began when a group of terrorists opened fire at the search parties comprising Army troopers, including para commandos, and the local police.

In the ensuing gun battle, six Army personnel and two civilians were injured, officials said, adding the injured soldiers were soon taken to a nearby hospital where two died shortly after arrival.

Additional troops were sent to the encounter site to throw multiple layers of cordons around the trapped militants.

Earlier in the day, the police released sketches of four militants spotted in the areas of *dhoks* (mud hutments) of Bani, Malhar, and Seojdhar of Kathua district. "A reward of ₹5 lakh is being offered for any actionable information leading to the capture or identification of each terrorist," a spokesperson said.

Meanwhile, J&K Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha has handed over the appointment letter, on compassionate ground, to Renu Sharma, wife of Vijay Kumar, who was killed in the Reasi terror attack in June this year.

"The Lt. Governor promised all possible assistance and support from the J&K administration to the family of the martyred civilian," an official spokesman said.

(*With PTI inputs*)

Veteran IAS officer T.V. Somanathan appointed next Cabinet Secretary

Mahesh Langa
AHMEDABAD

The Union government on Saturday announced IAS officer T.V. Somanathan as the Cabinet Secretary-designate by appointing him Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in the Cabinet Secretariat. He will take over India's top bureaucratic position from August 30 when incumbent Rajiv Gauba's extended tenure ends.

A 1987-batch IAS officer of the Tamil Nadu cadre and Finance Secretary in his previous posting, the veteran bureaucrat has been moved from the Finance Ministry to the Cabinet Secretariat for two years.

This old-style bureaucrat, who prefers to be low profile, holds a Ph.D. in economics and has vast experience of working in key positions in the State and at the Centre. He was seen as the natural choice as the Cabinet Secretary, a top bureaucratic position serving as the nerve centre of Central administration.

"There was nobody better than him to occupy the top post at the Centre," said a Secretary-level officer who described the appointment as an "inspired choice".

T. V. Somanathan

Mr. Somanathan worked at the State level in Tamil Nadu in the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) as well as at Joint Secretary and Additional Secretary levels in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs and Finance. His stints included those as Commissioner of Commercial Taxes and chief of the Chennai Metro Rail project, where he had achieved financial closure of the ambitious project.

Within a decade of his career in civil service, he joined the World Bank in Washington through the Young Professionals Program as Financial Economist in the East Asia & Pacific Regional Vice Presidency in 1996. In 2000, he had become one of the Bank's youngest Sector Managers when he was appointed to the Budget Policy Group.

Again in 2011, the World Bank sought his services, and he was deputed to serve as Director from 2011 to 2015.

Very few IAS officers have such an illustrious curriculum vitae as Dr. Somanathan's because besides scoring the second rank in the 1987 batch, he is a qualified chartered accountant, cost accountant, and company secretary who has helped prepared Budgets in the State and at the Centre.

Prolific writer

Mr. Somanathan is also a prolific writer as he has published dozens of papers and articles on economics in journals and newspapers on finance and public policy, and is the author of two books and chapters in several others.

"This is an excellent and inspired appointment. T.V. Somanathan is a terrific officer and brilliant scholar and thinker in his own right. His published works on the State and the civil services is a testament to that," said Milan Vaishnav, Director of the South Asia Program at the leading think-tank Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, who writes on India's civil services.

At the Centre, he helped steer the economy at a critical juncture during and after COVID-19 when the Union government's revenues were hit by the pandemic. He was appointed Expenditure Secretary in December 2019 and some of the measures he initiated included enforcing expenditure curbs on various Ministries and departments across the Union government during the pandemic.

Moreover, he also played a leading role in implementing flagship schemes such as 'PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana' and 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat', which were announced during the pandemic.

Given his formidable background in economics and his expertise in public finances and public policy, in Mumbai, he was seen as the frontrunner to succeed Shaktikanta Das as RBI Governor later this year, while in Delhi, he was expected to be the Cabinet Secretary.

"I will say his appointment is an excellent choice because he is a very straightforward and professional kind of bureaucrat who will never get into any groupism or politicking and would meticulously focus on his job and deliver it," a serving Secretary at the Centre told *The Hindu*.

Hindenburg allegations: Cong. slams SEBI chief

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday used the Latin phrase "*Quis Custodiet Ipsos*" or "who will guard the guards themselves" to take a swipe at SEBI chief Madhabi Buch, after U.S. short seller Hindenburg levelled allegations against her.

Hindenburg has alleged that Ms. Buch and her husband had stakes in obscure offshore funds used in the Adani money-siphoning case.

Tagging the Hindenburg post on the allegations on X, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said, "*Quis Custodiet Ipsos Custodes* (who will guard the guards themselves)." In another post, Mr. Ramesh said, "Parliament was notified to sit till the evening of August 12th. Suddenly it got adjourned sine die on the afternoon of August 9th itself. Now we know why."

Embassy says Russia no longer admitting Indians to its military for Ukraine war

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Russia no longer admits Indians into its Army, the Russian Embassy disclosed in a statement, adding that Russian and Indian authorities are in "close coordination" to help discharge Indian nationals recruited for the war in Ukraine.

In the first such official acceptance that Russia is working with Indian officials on releasing the Indian recruits who want to withdraw from their contracts, the Russian Embassy in Delhi issued a press statement where it condoled the "unfortunate instances of [Indian] casualties in the course of the special military operation in Ukraine".

"The agencies concerned in both countries work in close coordination for early identification and discharge of Indian nationals who voluntarily contracted for military service in Russia," the Russian Embassy said, adding that since April 2024, the Russian Defence Ministry had stopped taking in citizens from a "number of foreign countries, including India" into its military service.

Caught in a bind: In March, seven Indians had released two videos seeking the Centre's help to return. FILE PHOTO

" All contractual obligations and due compensation payments will be fulfilled in full measure," the statement added.

In Parliament on Friday, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar had said that of the 91 Indians who had gone to Russia that India knows about, eight have been killed, 14 have been discharged, and 69 remain in Russia. Responding to questions from AIMIM MP Asaduddin Owaisi about the delay in Russia's response, Mr. Jaishankar said that the Indian government could not "jump the gun" and would hold the Russian government to its word.

The issue had been raised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi when he met Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow on July 9, but while officials said Mr. Putin had promised he would order their discharge, there had been no formal acceptance from the Russian government thus far.

The Embassy denied reports that the Russian government had carried out mass recruitment programmes to lure any recruits fraudulently, stressing that all recruitments were on a voluntary basis.

"The Embassy outlines that the Russian government has at no point of time been engaged in any public or obscure campaigns, more so in fraudulent schemes to recruit the Indian nationals for military service in Russia," its statement said.

To a specific question from Congress MPs Gaurav Gogoi and Adoor Prakash, Mr. Jaishankar had said that total number of Indian nationals in various armed forces abroad presently was not known.

Nitin Gadkari warns Punjab of terminating NH projects

Vikas Vasudeva
CHANDIGARH

Expressing concern over the "prevailing law and order situation" in Punjab, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has cautioned Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann that eight highway projects in the State, estimated at ₹14,288 crore, would be terminated "if the situation does not improve".

Raising safety concerns of National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) officers, contractors, and their staff, in a letter to Mr. Mann on August 9, Mr. Gadkari said he had come to know of two untoward incidents that occurred on the Delhi-Katra expressway projects.

The NHAI is developing greenfield and brownfield highway corridors, including the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra expressway in Punjab.

He spoke of the incidents in Jalandhar and Ludhiana districts.

Congress starting early, to launch Maharashtra campaign on Aug. 20

Party is sending a signal to its partners in the Opposition alliance as Uddhav Thackeray, former CM and Shiv Sena (UBT) leader, has expressed his willingness to lead the grouping; leaders, however, deny any differences between the partners

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

The Congress will kick off its Maharashtra Assembly election campaign with a mega rally in Mumbai on August 20 to commemorate the 80th birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

By holding the event in Mumbai, the birthplace of the former Prime Minister and the Indian National Congress, the party is not only looking to assert its legacy but also sending a signal to its partners in the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA).

Gathering troops: Ramesh Chennithala, Rajesh Lilothia and Nana Patole during a party workers meeting, in Mumbai on Friday. PTI

Pole position

Former Chief Minister and Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) chief Uddhav Thackeray and Sharad Pawar of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) will be invited for the rally. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi will speak.

In the run-up to the election, MVA partners could jostle with each other for the pole position. Mr. Thackeray's recent visit to Delhi and his interaction with Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) leaders is being seen as his attempt to position himself as the predominant player within the MVA.

Mr. Thackeray has also dropped hints that he could lead the MVA again, if the need arose. "If my colleagues [in the MVA] feel that I have done excellent work, then ask them whether they want me as the Chief Minister. People will decide," he had told presspersons in Delhi in response to a question on whether he was willing to be the chief ministerial face.

But the Sena (UBT)'s leadership claim could be challenged, especially given the Lok Sabha election results.

Of the 48 Lok Sabha seats in Maharashtra, the party contested 21 but managed to win only eight. On the other hand, Mr. Pawar's NCP faction won eight of the 10 it contested.

The Congress emerged as the single largest party, winning 14 of 17 seats it contested. The Congress had an 82% strike rate and the NCP managed 80%, while the Sena (UBT)'s strike rate was only 38%. Buoyed by the Lok Sabha election results, the Congress has drawn up elaborate mass contact programmes that include touring Maharashtra's 36 districts. On August 7, the party held its first meeting to discuss seat-sharing with allies and a committee has been set up.

Maharashtra Congress chief Nana Patole has spoken in public of his view that the Congress should lead the MVA alliance.

All India Congress Committee (AICC) Maharashtra in-charge Ramesh Chennithala said that there were no differences between the allies but struck a different note on the chief ministerial face.

"The MVA is the face of the elections," Mr. Chennithala told *The Hindu* over phone from Latur. "There are no differences among MVA partners and we are all united to defeat the unpopular BJP-[Chief Minister Eknath] Shinde government."

Waqf Bill: clarity sought on the terms of reference of joint parliamentary panel

A.M. Jigeesh
NEW DELHI

A day after Parliament formed a joint committee on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, it remains unclear about the nature of the panel. Unlike the previous JPCs, no terms of reference have been announced so far for the 31-member panel. Experts have questioned the nature of the committee and have demanded clarity on its functioning.

On Friday, the last day of the Budget session, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Minority Affairs Kiren Rijiju had moved a motion in both the Houses to form a joint committee consisting of 21 members from the Lok Sabha and 10 from the Rajya Sabha. However, it is not clear whether the panel will consider only the content of the Bill or also look at issues such as encroachments on waqf properties and their management.

Former Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha and former Chairman of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Waqf Boards K. Rahman Khan told *The Hindu* that he expected the Centre to announce the terms of reference for the committee at the earliest. "They have not given any details on what are going to be the priorities for the panel other than the Bill. Procedurally, the Bill should have gone to a standing committee. The committees are not yet formed, that is probably why the Centre has formed a joint panel," Mr. Khan said.

Kiren Rijiju

Mr. Khan said the detailed report presented by him in 2008 had dealt with issues plaguing the Waqf system, and, later as Minority Affairs Minister, he had brought in comprehensive legislation in 2013 to help the management of Waqf properties. "We had considered all aspects of the Waqf system in the country and suggested reforms in the report. The government accepted it and the Bill was a result of our work," he said.

Former Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha P.D.T. Acharya said a JPC should have a specific agenda with terms of reference. "For Bills, there is a specific provision in the rule book of forming joint select committees, where Ministers can also become members. Such a joint select committee will have the power to amend a Bill as the government is represented in it. It seems that this government has not understood the difference between a JPC and a joint select committee. A joint select committee would have been ideal for the Waqf Bill," he said.

P.C. Chacko, a former MP and working president of the Nationalist Congress Party-Sharadchandra Pawar, who chaired the JPC on the 2G scam, said JPCs have no meaning if their reports are not binding on the government.

"JPCs seldom have the power of parliamentary oversight. A JPC is considered a mini-Parliament, but its reports have just suggestions and recommendations which the government may or may not accept," he said.

Look beyond 'gravity' of offence, consider delayed trial, long time in jail: SC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court's judgment on granting bail to Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Manish Sisodia has asked courts to shed their blinkers, look beyond the "gravity" of economic offences and pay attention to factors such as delayed trial and prolonged jail time spent as undertrials while deciding bail pleas in money laundering cases.

A Bench of Justices B.R. Gavai and K.V. Viswanathan recognised speedy trial as a fundamental right under the umbrella of Article 21 of the Constitution. The court has also amplified the cause of fair trial under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). It has held that an accused cannot be denied access to documents which may absolve him. These records or statements cannot be simply categorised as "unrelied-upon documents" and concealed from the accused.

The judgment, on August 9, was the result of a series of recent decisions that have been chipping away at a rigid interpretation of Section 45 of the PMLA. The provision lays down tough conditions for grant of bail. In fact, they represented odds stacked up so high against the accused, who would be behind bars, that bail would be nearly impossible.

Warm welcome: Manish Sisodia with party leaders after his release from Tihar Jail on bail in Delhi on Saturday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

The provision allowed the public prosecutor an opportunity to oppose the bail application. In case the prosecutor objects to bail, the court could still grant bail, but only if it was satisfied that there were "reasonable grounds" to believe the accused was not guilty and, again, not "likely" to commit any offence while on bail.

In October last year, a Supreme Court Bench headed by Justice Sanjiv Khanna held that delay in trial coupled with incarceration for a long period should be read into Section 439 and Section 45 of the PMLA. This Bench denied Mr. Sisodia interim bail, but laid the ground for the August 9 judgment.

In its *Vijay Madan Lal Choudhary* judgment, the court said the conditions for bail laid down in Section 45 must be construed reasonably. "The provision does not require that to grant bail, the court must arrive at a positive finding that an accused has not committed an offence under the PMLA... the intent of the legislature cannot be read as requiring the court to examine the issue threadbare and in detail to pronounce whether an accused is guilty or is entitled to acquittal," Justice Gavai copiously quoted from this judgment.

Justice Gavai referred to how the SC had dismissed the objections raised by the ED and granted former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram bail after 49 days of incarceration.

Hostel mates, book lovers, brother judges share a pithy, unifying dictum

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

A line in a book shared by two hostel mates at Delhi University 38 years ago may provide a key for the Supreme Court to resolve knotty disputes involving competing claims in appointments to public services.

The two book-sharing friends happen to be the two judges on the Bench hearing the case.

For Justice P.S. Narasimha, the lead judge on the Bench, the quote "Justice is a synthesis of the need for order and the quest for justice" from Edgar Bodenheimer's *Jurisprudence – The Philosophy and Method of the Law* was never far from his mind.

He discovered it in the copy shared by his hostel mate, Justice Sanjay Kumar, while they were reading law at the Delhi University in 1986. He found the quote succinctly underscored the age-old conflict for a judge, whether to follow the narrow path of the written rule or deviate from it for the sake of fairness and justice.

Justice Sanjay Kumar and Justice P.S. Narasimha.

Clerk appointment case

The case being heard by the two judges is an appeal concerning the appointment of lower division clerks in the Kerala Water Authority.

The qualification for the post is a certificate in data entry and office automation issued after a course of minimum three months or equivalent. Dispute arose when candidates with computer application diplomas, a higher qualification, applied for the job.

The question raised in the Supreme Court by senior advocate V. Giri and advocate Vipin Nair, for opposing parties in the appeal, is whether "overqualification would mean disqualification".

The Kerala High Court had followed the narrow path of the rule to dismiss the diploma holders' candidature. It reasoned that the advertisement specifically called for three-month certificate holders and no more.

On April 30, Justice Narasimha found the issue boiled down to the dilemma expressed in Bodenheimer's line. He noted that the "need for order" required the confirmation of the High Court decision, but, on the other hand, Mr. Giri had argued that excluding the diploma holders would cause "great injustice".

Two judges on an SC Bench narrate story of a book shared and a line that made it to the court annals

On August 5, the day scheduled for hearing the case in detail, Justice Sanjay Kumar happened to join Justice Narasimha on the Bench as his associate judge, prompting the latter to narrate the story of the book shared long ago and the line that made it to the court annals.

Mr. Giri called the coincidence "surreal".

For the two friends, life had come full circle.

'Needed a law to resolve confusion on SC order'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A day after the Narendra Modi government made it clear that the "creamy layer" principle will not be applied to reservation for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs), Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday said the government should have brought in a legislation in Parliament to resolve the confusion, created by the Supreme Court judgment on sub-categorisation of SCs and STs.

However, Mr. Kharge said the party is holding more consultations on the core issue of sub-categorisation of SCs and STs.

On August 1, a seven-judge Bench of the Supreme Court led by Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud ruled that State governments were permitted to sub-classify communities within the SC list based on empirical data.

Guest lecturers in J&K seek salary hike

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A group of contractual and guest lecturers in various colleges and universities in J&K have knocked the doors of Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha demanding that their salaries be enhanced similar to what their counterparts are paid in Ladakh.

The Ladakh administration had raised the basic salary of contractual assistant lecturers to ₹57,000 from existing ₹40,000 a month. In J&K, while guest assistant lecturers with UGC-NET or Ph.D. get ₹28,000 a month, those who have not cleared the NET get ₹18,000.

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Details are available in mcc.kerala.gov.in Sd/- Director

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PUBLIC NOTICE
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The Council of Architecture an autonomous statutory authority of Government of India set up under the Architects Act, 1972, is mandated to register qualified professionals as "Architects" and to regulate the standards of architectural education and profession in the country in order to safeguard the interest of the society.
The Act mandates that only a qualified person be registered as an "Architect" with the Council of Architecture and only he/she can use the title and style of "Architect" for carrying out the profession of an architect in India. An "Architect" is rigorously trained and groomed with special knowledge and skills to design buildings for comfort & life safety of the citizens duly complying Local development control regulations and various other laws & standards. An "Architect" is governed by Architects (Professional Conduct) Regulations, 1989 approved by Central Government and thus remains accountable for the professional services rendered by him/her.
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INBRIEF

Jaishankar meets Muizzu in Maldives; seeks to reset ties

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu on Saturday and emphasised New Delhi's commitment to deepen India-Maldives ties for the benefit of the people in the two countries and the region. Mr. Jaishankar is on a three-day official visit to the Maldives to reset the bilateral relationship, the first high-level trip from India after the atoll nation's pro-China President Muizzu assumed office in 2023. "Privileged to call on President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu. Conveyed greetings of PM Narendra Modi. Committed to deepening India-Maldives ties," Mr. Jaishankar posted on X. PTI

MEA, NSIL sign pact to assist launch of Nepal-built satellite

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and the ISRO's commercial arm NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) signed an agreement on Saturday to grant assistance for launching the Nepal-built Munal satellite, according to an official statement. Munal is an indigenous satellite developed in Nepal under the aegis of the Nepal Academy of Science and Technology. Antarikchya Pratishan, Nepal, a Nepalese space startup, has assisted in the design and fabrication of the satellite. It aims to build a vegetation density database of the earth's surface, the MEA said. "This satellite is expected to be launched soon on NSIL's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle," the statement said. PTI

Soren shares prisoner's stamp on hand to mark his birthday

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren chose an unusual way to celebrate his 49th birthday on Saturday, sharing a picture of the prisoner's stamp on his right hand in a social media post, and describing it as a symbol of the ongoing challenges faced by democracy. He explained that the stamp had been placed on his hand by jail authorities when he was released from prison. He alleged that he had been sent to jail as part of a political conspiracy. Mr. Soren was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate on January 31 in connection with a money-laundering case related to an alleged land scam, and was in jail for almost half the year.

'Revoke clearance given to Great Nicobar Project'

Congress spokesperson and Rajya Sabha MP Jairam Ramesh has written to Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav to revoke the environmental clearances accorded to the Great Nicobar Project. He demanded that parliamentary panels review the project. "The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change must fulfil its dharma and not allow itself to be reduced to becoming a project proponent, especially when it has decidedly disastrous human, social and ecological consequences," said the letter. The project, he added, could lead to "genocide" of the Shompen, an indigenous community in the island.

SUDOKU

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Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

4	5	9	1	3	7	6	2	8
2	7	8	6	4	5	9	1	3
3	6	1	9	8	2	5	4	7
5	1	2	7	6	9	8	3	4
9	4	3	2	1	8	7	5	6
7	8	6	4	5	3	2	9	1
1	2	7	3	9	6	4	8	5
8	9	4	5	7	1	3	6	2
6	3	5	8	2	4	1	7	9

Police associate held in rape, murder of doctor in Kolkata

She was on night shift at R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital and was found dead on Friday; post-mortem confirms sexual assault; Mamata says government ready for independent probe

Shiv Sahay Singh
Moyurie Som
KOLKATA

The Kolkata Police on Saturday arrested a civic police volunteer in the rape and murder of a doctor at R.G. Kar Medical College Hospital here, with massive protests erupting across medical colleges in West Bengal.

The accused, Sanjay Roy, was produced before a city court and remanded in police custody for 14 days.

The doctor, a postgraduate trainee, was found dead in the hospital on Friday morning. She was on the night shift and had retired to a seminar room around 2 a.m.

The accused has been associated with the Kolkata Police as a civic police volunteer since 2019 and at present, is part of the disaster management group. According to sources, he used to visit the hospital to admit patients.

Speaking to a Bengali television news channel, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said she would hand over the investigation to another agency if the family so desired. The case should be tried by a fast-track court, she added.

The court has sent the accused to police custody for 14 days. PTI

Commissioner of Police Vineet Kumar Goyal said there were signs of sexual assault on the body. "Case has been started under charges of rape and murder," he said.

He said the investigation, carried out through the night, yielded several pieces of evidence and on that basis, the accused was arrested. Asked about his association with the police, Mr. Goyal said, "For us, he is a criminal of the highest order and which deserves highest punishment."

He said CCTV cameras in the hospital had confirmed his presence and he had no business being there at the odd hour. According to police sources, the accused Sanjay Roy was seen in a CCTV footage with a wireless headphone near the seminar hall on the third floor. The headphone was found near the body.

Protests across Kolkata

Meanwhile, junior doctors across hospitals and medical colleges in Kolkata have called for a halt in services to protest against the alleged lack of safety of women medical staff on hospital premises. Medical services, barring emergency services, have come to a complete halt at R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital, with junior doctors and residents carrying out protest marches demanding the arrest of those involved and increased security on campus.

"There are so many female doctors who work round the clock in this hospital. We do not feel safe here any more. Even our parents are worried," a protesting woman doctor said. "We will not calm down until the principal accepts responsibility for the death of our colleague and resigns," Dr Aniket Kar of the medical college, who led a massive rally of students to the Medical College said.

The father of the deceased alleged that initially the administration tried to hush up the incident, but later, under pressure of protesting doctors, the police has arrested one person. BJP State president Sukanta Majumdar said the administration was trying to hush up the incident, and the party workers were protesting to ensure that the investigation is handed over to an independent agency.

PMAY-U 2.0 to give housing financiers more credit cushion

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Credit Risk Guarantee Fund Trust corpus raised from ₹1,000 crore to ₹3,000 crore

The second edition of the flagship Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban), or the Prime Minister's Housing Scheme, which aims to address housing shortage among the urban poor, will provide more cushion to financiers and investors who provide credit facilities to the economically weaker section and lower income groups in cities for the construction or purchase of their first homes.

The government has increased the corpus of the Credit Risk Guarantee Fund Trust under the scheme from ₹1,000 crore to ₹3,000 crore to provide risk guarantee on affordable housing loans from banks, housing finance companies or primary lending institutions to the urban poor.

Further, the management of the fund will be transferred to the National Credit Guarantee Company from the National Housing Bank. The fund scheme is being restructured, and modified guidelines will be issued soon, a senior official in the Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry said. The Trust is an instrument to protect financiers and investors from possible losses in finance and credit transactions.

As on date, 118.64 lakh houses have been sanctioned under the PMAY-U. The PMAY-U 2.0 was approved by the Union Cabinet on Friday. Under this scheme, financial assistance will be provided to 1 crore urban poor and middle-class families to construct, purchase or rent a house at affordable costs through the States and Union Territories for the next five years.

A total government subsidy of ₹2.3 lakh crore will be provided under the scheme which will have a total investment of ₹10 lakh crore. The cost of house construction under different verticals will be shared by the Centre, the State government, adminisration of the Union Territories, urban local bodies and eligible beneficiaries.

A separate Technology and Innovation Sub-Mission (TISM) will also be set up under PMAY-U 2.0.

Glacial lakes multiply in Himachal and Tibet, poses threat to lives and infra downstream

Vikas Vasudeva
CHANDIGARH

With glacier sizes rapidly reducing from the impact of changed weather patterns in recent years, there has been a gradual rise of moraine-dammed lakes in Himachal Pradesh and the Trans Himalayan Region of Tibet, posing a potential threat to human life and infrastructure further downstream.

The number of glacial lakes in the Satluj river catchment area has almost doubled from 562 in 2019 to 1,048 in 2023, according to satellite data analysed in a recent study by the Centre on Climate Change of Himachal Pradesh Council for Science Technology-Environment (HIMCOSTE). The catchment area of the Satluj basin was studied from upstream of Jhakri to the Mansarover Lake in Tibet, in the Trans Himalayan Region from where the river originates.

Study shows glacial lakes in the Satluj catchment area has almost doubled from 562 in 2019 to 1,048 in 2023. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Smaller lakes sprout

Of the 1,048 lakes mapped in 2023, 900 are small, each spanning an area of less than five hectares, while 89 lakes have an area between 5 hectares and ten hectares, and 59 lakes are bigger than 10 hectares each.

"Over the years, the number of glacial lakes has been gradually increasing. In fact, as the frequency of small lakes with an area of less than five hectares has been rising, it indicates that the climate warming effects are more significant in the higher Himalayan region. The swift melting of glaciers and less snowfall during the winter could be reasons behind the rise in lakes," said S.S. Randhawa, a co-author of the study, and the principal scientific officer at HIMCOSTE.

He said it could be inferred from the basin-wise analysis that the number of lakes is much higher in the Tibetan Himalayan Region or the Upper Satluj basin, in comparison to the Spiti and Lower Satluj basins, indicating that the Upper Satluj basin is more susceptible to glacial lake formations. "As the formation of small lakes is relatively higher in the upper region, it indicates greater climate change impact in the higher region in comparison to the lower regions. The average temperature in the high altitudes areas is rising faster than the lower areas," Mr. Randhawa said.

Downstream danger

The study, which analysed multi-spectral satellite images, suggests that the rise in glacial lakes in Himachal Pradesh's river basins can be disastrous downstream if the lakes burst their bounds for any reason.

"Climate change has influenced the health of glaciers in the entire Himalayan region. As a result, the cryospheric cover over the Himalayan terrain is reducing. One of the ramifications of this is the development of high-altitude glacial lakes," said Sunil Dhar, Dean of the Department of Environmental Sciences at the Central University of Jammu. "The number of such lakes has increased over the years and these lakes have become unstable due to the increase in the volume of water or due to the calving effect of adjoining glaciers, [creating] avalanche either of snow or rocks. These lakes have a potential of bursting out, and depending on the volume of water, velocity and the outburst spread, it can pose a threat to habitations and infrastructure down stream," he added.

Wild elephant tramples four to death in Chhattisgarh

The Hindu Bureau
RANCHI

A woman and three men, were trampled to death by a wild elephant in Jashpur district of Chhattisgarh, nearly 160 km from here, on Saturday.

The attack came nearly a day after another wild elephant had trampled three persons to death in Korba district of the State.

In Jashpur, a lone tusker, was crossing a forested area and was being tracked by a Forest Department team on Friday night, a government official said. "By the time the department staff could reach, the elephant had entered the village," the official added.

When it damaged a house and a young boy was injured, neighbours and family members of the boy reached out to help him. But they too were attacked leading to casualties.

Natwar Singh, former External Affairs Minister, dead

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Former External Affairs Minister K. Natwar Singh passed away on Saturday at the age of 95. He was hospitalised for nearly two weeks in a clinic in Gurugram, outside New Delhi.

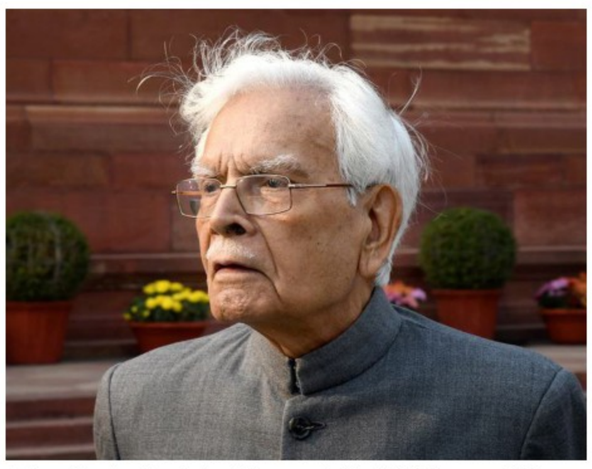
Mr. Singh served as the External Affairs Minister in 2004-05 in the Cabinet of former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh in the UPA regime.

A prolific writer and chronicler, Singh started his career as an Indian Foreign Service officer in 1953 at the age of 22. He took early retirement in 1984 when he contested from Bharatpur in Rajasthan and became a Lok Sabha member. He served as the Minister of State for Steel in the Rajiv Gandhi government and subsequently became the Minister of State for External Affairs in 1986.

Apart from leading India's multilateral campaigns at that time, he participated in the Indian plans for bringing an "Afghan-led and Afghan-owned" government at the end of the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. He visited Rome and tried to open a dialogue with Afghan King Zahir Shah in the spring of 1988.

After joining the IFS on April 14, 1953 he was posted at South Block and the districts where he served for the next four years. At that young age, he served as a liaison officer for multiple delegations from China, Egypt and Indonesia that gave him an impression of the working of then President of Egypt Gamal Abdel Nasser, and Dr. Mohammad Hatta of Indonesia.

He subsequently served in multiple Indian missions including in London, where he worked under Indian High Commissioner Vijay Lakshmi Pandit and was attached to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) under Indira Gandhi in 1966. He served in Mrs. Gandhi's PMO till 1971 and served in Poland (1971-73) as the Indian Ambassador, and the United Kingdom where he was the Deputy High Commissioner when the Emergency was imposed in 1975. He was India's High Commissioner to Pakistan between 1982 and 1984 when Mrs. Gandhi was in her last stint and is known to have interacted with the ruler of Pakistan General Zia ul Haq during that time on multiple occasions conveying India's discomfort about Pakistan's policy on the insurgency in Punjab.



Natwar Singh, who started his career in the IFS at the age of 22, was a prolific writer and chronicler. SANDEEP SAXENA

He was bestowed the second highest civilian award Padma Vibhushan after he served as the head of the preparatory committee of the Non-Alignment Summit in New Delhi in 1983.

Singh had a spell of political exile after his former senior colleague P. V. Narasimha Rao became the Prime Minister after the 1991 general election. He had serious differences with Rao and ultimately became one of the founders of the All India Indira Congress.

He returned to power in 2004 when Dr. Manmohan Singh became the Prime Minister of the UPA-1 government but had to resign after the oil-for-food scandal broke out which indicated that people close to him, including his son, had benefited out of the payments. Singh resigned in March 2006 against the backdrop of that controversy, though he always maintained that he had not gained personally from the payments.

As an author, he wrote a number of books including one on the Jat ruler of Bharatpur, Suraj Mal. He was a friend of Mulk Raj Anand, E.M. Forster and many other 20th century literary giants. He wrote several volumes after leaving office as the External Affairs Minister that recollected his diplomatic journeys from India to Zambia, Ethiopia, China, U.K., U.S.A. and Pakistan.

Singh is survived by his son Jagat Singh and wife Heminder Kumari Singh. Former Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh is his brother-in-law.

His autobiography *One Life is Not Enough* was published in 2014. The book was launched in a packed event that was attended by several stalwarts including former Prime Miniseter Dr. Manmohan Singh.

INBRIEF

Coffee Day parent company faces insolvency proceedings

The NCLT has ordered initiating insolvency proceedings against Coffee Day Enterprises Ltd. (CDEL), the parent company of Coffee Day Group which operates Cafe Coffee Day chain of coffee houses. The Bengaluru bench of the National Company Law Tribunal on August 8 admitted the plea filed by IDBI Trusteeship Services Ltd. claiming a default of ₹228.45 crore and appointed an interim resolution professional to take care of the operation of the debt-ridden company. PTI

Siemens Q3 PAT rises 25% to ₹531 crore on higher revenues

Siemens has reported a 25% rise in profit after tax (PAT) at ₹531 crore during the April-June quarter of this fiscal, on account of higher revenues. The company, which follows the October to September fiscal year, said it had reported a PAT of ₹424 crore a year earlier. Revenues rose to ₹4,714 crore, a 7% increase from ₹4,407 crore in the year-earlier period. New orders stood at ₹6,245 crore, an increase of 18% over ₹5,288 crore in the same period last year. PTI

Aurobindo Pharma Q1 net profit jumps 61% to ₹919 crore

Aurobindo Pharma on Saturday said its consolidated net profit increased 61% year on year to ₹919 crore in the first quarter ended June 2024, aided by strong sales across markets. The Hyderabad-based drug maker had reported a net profit of ₹571 crore in the April-June quarter of last fiscal. Revenue from operations increased to ₹7,567 crore in the June quarter as against ₹6,851 crore in the year-earlier period, the drug maker said in a statement. PTI

FM urges banks to raise small sums from many savers

Sitharaman voices concern over slower growth in deposits in relation to lending; says bankers need to focus on deposit mobilisation as core work

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

Little drops: The trickles are the ones which are going to be your bread-and-butter money to bank on lending regularly, says FM. PTI

Concerned about the slower growth in bank deposits vis-à-vis an uptick in lending, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman made a strong pitch on Saturday for banks to find novel ways to attract deposits, advocating a return to the 'old-fashioned approach' of raising small sums from many savers rather than pursuing bulk corporate deposits that indicate 'very lazy' banking.

Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das said the RBI had been highlighting this issue with banks, referring to a 300-400 basis points gap observed between deposit and credit growth for the last few months, with deposits lagging behind. One basis point equals 0.01%.

"As it stands today, we do not see a crisis or anything. It has to be attended and dealt with by the individual banks. If it goes on like this unattended, it can lead to a potential structural liquidity management issue. So it's a kind of advance cautioning of the banks," he said after a meeting of the RBI's board with the Finance Minister.

Ms. Sitharaman said that the RBI and the government had been repeatedly telling banks to pay a little more attention on their core business activity of deposit mobilisation and lending.

"They must make more concerted efforts to raise deposits and then lend as well because this is the core activity of banking... after that, you can add four-five other new things to your portfolio. But if in the core business – deposit collection and lending money – if one of the wheels is not functioning effectively, you need to heed it," Ms. Sitharaman stressed.

'Old-fashioned way'

The minister said she would urge bank chiefs, whom she would be meeting soon, to go back to collecting deposits the old-fashioned way from everybody, using the liberty they have in managing interest rates. "I think huge big deposits have always been a very lazy banker's job. 'Nice. I've got a big deposit that's going to take a whole lot of things, but the trickles, which come are the ones which are going to be your bread-and-butter money to bank on lending regularly. That trickle was the emphasis long time ago in deposit mobilisation, which cared nothing for the other side," she observed.

"Now we've gone over this side completely, [get] big deposits and meet my manager's target," she remarked, adding that securing small deposits is a very critical job of a bank though it might entail "grinding monotony".

Mr. Das added that the RBI has been flagging that "high value deposits' flight can be very fast". The share of CASA deposits in overall deposits has come down to about 39% from 43% about a year ago, so banks need to focus more on all deposits, not just bulk deposits, he averred.

Minister reintroduces Diamond Imprest Licence

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal on Saturday announced the reintroduction of a Diamond Imprest Licence, which is expected to benefit MSME exporters.

The Minister made the announcement during an interactive session at the 40th edition of the India International Jewellery Show 2024, organised by the Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) here. GJEPC had been recommending this policy for a long time.

Reintroduction of the Diamond Imprest Licence will ensure that Indian diamond exporters above a certain export turnover threshold are allowed to import diamonds up to 5% (if not 10% as it was earlier) of their average export turnover from the preceding three years.

'Level-playing field'

The move would provide a level-playing field for Indian MSME diamond exporters alongside their larger peers. "This will stop flight of investment of Indian diamantaires to diamond mining destinations. It will give more employment in terms of diamond assorters and processing of semi-finished diamonds in the factories," GJEPC said.

The Minister urged Indian exporters to create a greater degree of value addition due to recession in developed countries.

New reporting norms for banks will bolster informed policy making: Sitharaman

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The change in reporting requirements for banks is the most significant aspect of the banking law amendments introduced in Parliament on Friday as it will ensure that the data used to frame policies is closer to reality, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman asserted on Saturday.

The introduction of provisions in the Banking Regulation (BR) Act for simultaneous and successive nominations by account holders and depositors, Ms. Sitharaman said, was a customer-friendly step as it was important for customers to have a choice in nominations. This will also ensure that nominees do not face difficulties later in claiming what is rightfully theirs, she noted.

Stressing that many of the proposed changes in the banking law were long-awaited, the Finance Minister said that the amendments to the Banking Regulation Act and Section 42 of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act to revise the reporting dates for submission of statutory reports by banks to the regulator, was most critical shift.

"Instead of going by the old way of [reporting by] the last Friday [of a month] and things like that, we have gone in for the calendar fortnight - the 15th and 30th of every month. So corrections, if any, can happen, and the updations are predictable, and eventually, at the end of the year, you are not doing lumpsum changes... little changes done every month, every fortnight, can be assimilated," she said. "Therefore, I think that is the most important of all the amendments. So that data which is the driver of policy making, is much more closer to reality," the FM underlined.

> Corrections, if any, can happen, and updations are predictable, and eventually, at the end of the year, you are not doing lumpsum changes
> **NIRMALA SITHARAMAN,** Finance Minister

Weighing in on the proposed changes, financial sector experts said the amendments could help banks and regulators become more agile in responding to evolving economic demands.

"Uniform reporting standards will facilitate faster response to sectoral risks and economic challenges from regulators and investors," said Gayathri Parthasarathy, partner and leader of financial services at PwC India.

'India has a lot more scope to pursue progressive capitalism'

We live in a highly integrated society where what one person does affects others; So that's why you need collective action. You need government, you need regulation, you need public investment

INTERVIEW

Joseph Stiglitz

Prashanth Perumal

Nobel Prize winning economist Joseph Stiglitz argues in his new book 'The Road to Freedom: Economics And The Good Society' that unregulated 'free' markets actually reduce economic opportunities for the majority and help individuals to siphon wealth from the many to the few. In a video interview, he elaborates on his vision for an alternative approach. Excerpts:

You argue that neo-liberalism or unfettered capitalism increases the freedom of the rich at the cost of the freedom of the poor. Can you tell us how?

We live in a highly integrated society where what one person does affects others. The great philosopher Isaiah Berlin said "The freedom for the wolves means death for the sheep". If you allow firms to exploit others through monopoly power or deceptive practices, it increases the profits of the monopolist but decreases the well-being of the workers, which actually impedes economic efficiency. So there are trade-offs.

In many of these cases, the gains of the rich come not only at the expense of the poor; the overall sum total of goods and services produced in the economy may be decreased. So that's why you need collective action. You need government, you need regulation, you need public investment.

Friedrich Hayek wrote in his very famous book called 'The Road to Serfdom' in 1944 that he was afraid that governments assuming the role of delivering welfare and macroeconomic stabilisation after World War II would put countries on the road to serfdom or authoritarian fascism. He was wrong. What we see today is the growth of authoritarian populism in countries where governments have done too little. It's not in countries where governments take an active role, like in the Nordic countries, that we find fascism growing rapidly. It's really in the countries where there are problems of millions left behind, as in the United States. It is neo-liberalism that is at the source of today's growth of fascist populism.

But many will argue that no country has really ever had truly free markets... so would it would be correct to blame capitalism for our troubles?

I'd say if we had that kind of extreme capitalism things would be even worse. We would have more inequality, exploitation, monopoly power, economic volatility, and climate change would be worse. We know the economy is not self-regulating. We know that the powerful can exploit the less powerful.

We would not in the United States have the kind of technological advantage that we have over other countries if the government hadn't spent so much on research and on education. Our technological superiority is largely based on government spending.

You say real-world markets are not as perfectly competitive as economists assume, and that governments have a key role to play in correcting market failures. But do we necessarily need textbook-style perfect competition?

There is competition in our market. You have Google, Microsoft, Facebook competing in one area or another. But what we've learned over the years is... even a little bit of market imperfection can lead to gross inefficiencies in the economy and open up large opportunities for exploitation.

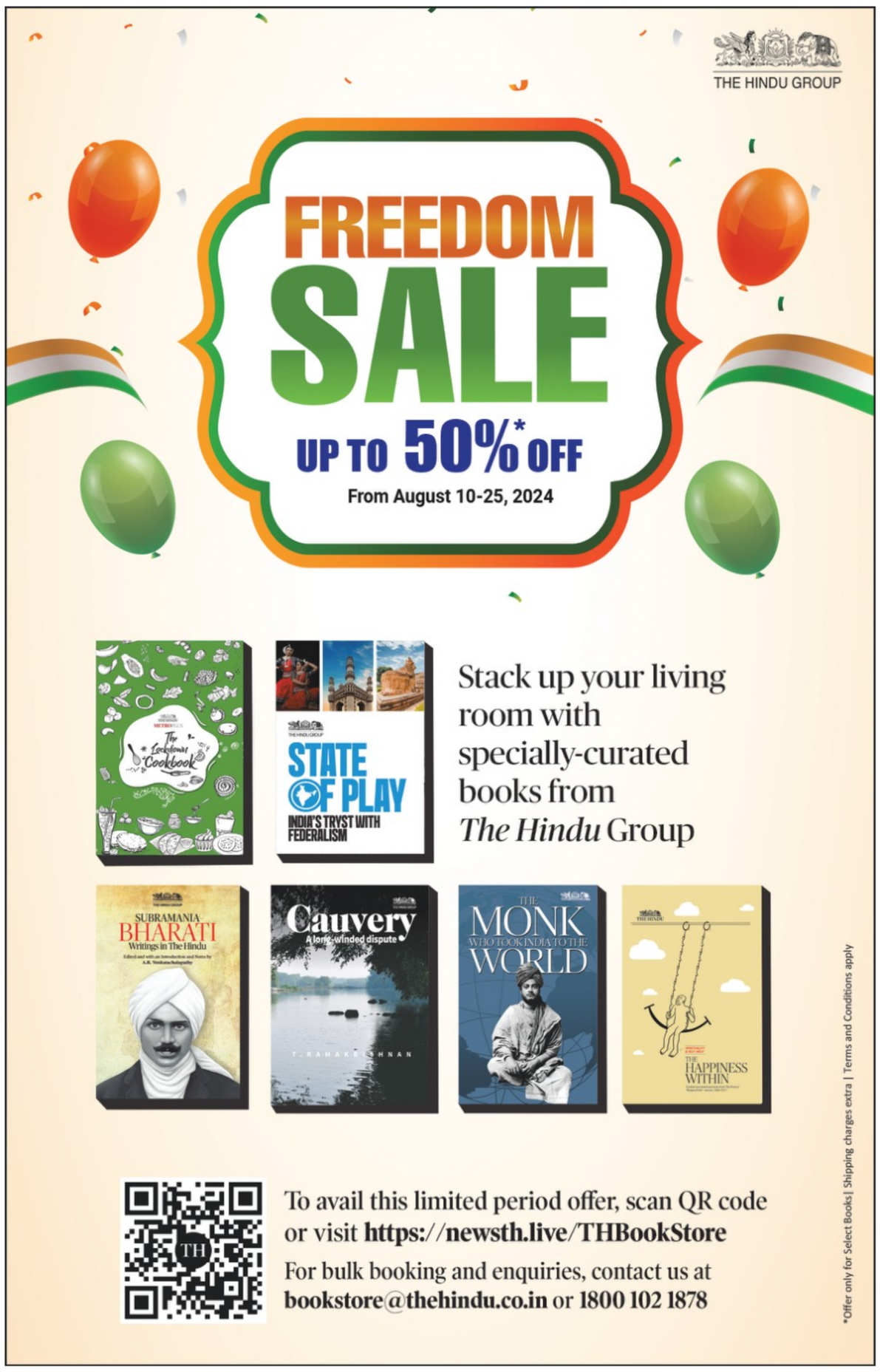
Firms devote a lot of their energy not to making better products but to making a less competitive marketplace.

How is your argument for progressive capitalism relevant to a country like India where the role of the state is much larger than in developed countries?

While you say the role of the state is very large in India, you've actually liberalised a lot, for example in the financial sector and the government is not taking an active role in many areas like healthcare and housing. And you have allowed billionaires to flourish without paying their fair share of taxes.

So I believe that there is a lot more scope for what I call progressive capitalism in India. You need environmental regulations; so much of India is an environmental disaster, including the use of water and many of the areas of agriculture, and pollution in the cities.

To me, when I visit India, I see the scope for a lot larger role for government to create a better society.



Record temperatures in Great Barrier Reef seen in last decade

The Hindu Bureau

Water temperatures in and around the Great Barrier Reef, Australia, in the past decade have been the warmest in the past 400 years. The results were published recently in *Nature*. These periods of warming increase the risk of mass coral bleaching and mortality and are likely driven by human-induced climate change. The Great Barrier Reef has undergone a sequence of mass bleaching events in recent years, with the events increasing in frequency since some of the first recorded episodes occurred in the 1980s. Mass coral bleaching can be spurred by warming water temperatures linked to global warming. Analysis of sea surface temperatures in the Coral Sea, which contains the Great Barrier Reef, has until now mainly been limited to recent instrumental observations.

Researchers now reconstructed sea surface temperature data from 1618 to 1995 using coral skeleton samples from within and surrounding the Coral Sea and coupled this dataset with recorded sea surface temperature data from 1900 to 2024. They identified relatively stable temperatures prior to 1900. From 1960-2024, however, they observed an average annual warming for January to March of 0.12 degree C per decade. The average sea surface temperatures for January and March in the mass coral bleaching years of 2016, 2017, 2020, 2022, and 2024 were considerably warmer than in any year in the reconstruction prior to 1900 and were five of the six warmest the region has experienced in the past four centuries. Further modelling suggests that this rate of heating post-1900 can be attributed to human influence.

The authors note there are remaining uncertainties in reconstructed sea surface temperature data due to some of the chemical proportions in the coral that are used to model temperatures being influenced by other variables such as salinity. However, these uncertainties could be reduced with additional sampling of coral cores from the region. The researchers note that even if global warming is kept under the Paris Agreement's goal of 1.5 degree C above pre-industrial levels, 70% to 90% of corals across the globe could be lost, and future coral reefs will likely feature a different community structure with less diversity in coral species.

Hidden dangers of irrational use of antibiotics on microbiome

Antibiotics, especially the broad-spectrum ones, can wipe out a large portion of the gut bacteria; this disruption, known as dysbiosis, can have severe and long-lasting effects. Even a single course of antibiotics can produce dysbiosis

Abdul Ghafur

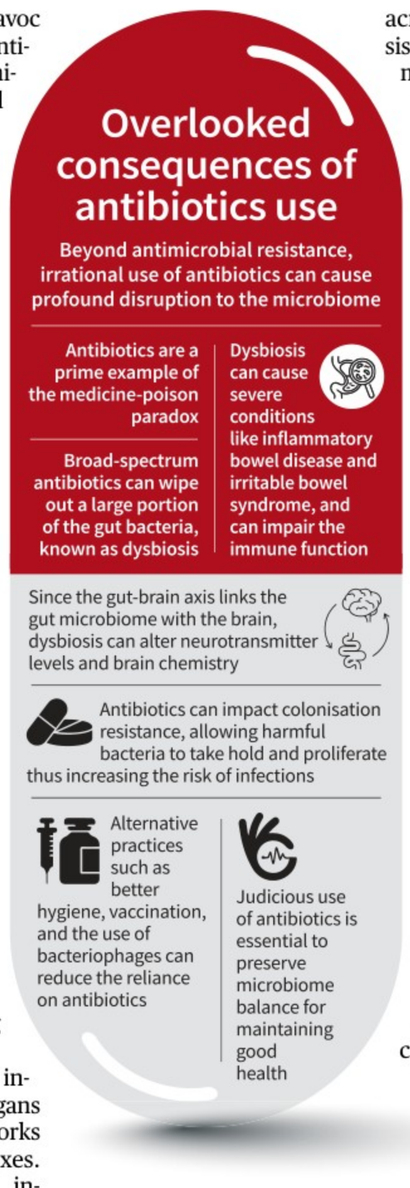
Antibiotics are often hailed as miracle drugs, capable of curing once-deadly infections and saving countless lives. However, the overuse and misuse of antibiotics in humans, animals, and agriculture have severe and often overlooked consequences. While the world is acutely aware that such practices drive antimicrobial resistance (AMR), a more insidious danger lies beneath the surface. The true peril is the profound disruption antibiotics cause to the microbiome – a disruption that ripples out to affect every organ and function of our bodies.

Various roles

The human body is home to a vast, intricate community of microorganisms collectively known as the microbiome. This includes bacteria, fungi, and viruses. Astonishingly, our bodies host approximately 38 trillion microbial cells, outnumbering our cells, which total around 30 trillion. This means we are more microbial than humans. The gut microbiome, in particular, plays a crucial role in maintaining our health. It aids in digestion, supports the immune system, produces essential nutrients like vitamin K and certain B vitamins, and protects against pathogens. The diversity and balance of these microbial communities are vital for our well-being.

While antibiotics are essential for treating bacterial infections, their irrational use can wreak havoc on the microbiome. Antibiotics do not discriminate between harmful pathogens and beneficial bacteria. When we take antibiotics, especially the broad-spectrum ones, they wipe out a large portion of the gut bacteria. This disruption, known as dysbiosis, can have severe and long-lasting effects. Even a single course of antibiotics can produce dysbiosis that lasts for months or even years.

Dysbiosis can cause more severe conditions like inflammatory bowel disease and irritable bowel syndrome. A healthy microbiome is essential for a robust immune system. Dysbiosis can impair immune function, making the body more susceptible to infections and autoimmune diseases. The gut microbiome also plays a crucial role in regulating metabolism.



The gut microbiome interacts with various organs through complex networks known as gut-organ axes. These interactions influence the overall health and functioning of the body. The gut-brain axis links the gut microbiome with the brain, where dysbiosis can alter neurotransmitter levels and brain chemistry, affecting mood, cognition, and mental health conditions like anxiety and depression. The gut-liver axis involves the transport of bacterial metabolites and toxins from the gut to the liver. Dysbiosis can increase gut permeability ('leaky gut'), allowing more toxins to reach the liver and exacerbating liver conditions such as non-alcoholic fatty liver disease. The gut-skin axis involves the influence of the gut microbiome on skin health, where dysbiosis can exacerbate conditions like acne, eczema, and psoriasis by altering systemic immune responses and skin barrier function. The gut microbiome influences metabolic processes, including energy harvesting from food and the regulation of glucose and lipid metabolism. Dysbiosis can disrupt these processes, contributing to conditions like obesity, diabetes, and metabolic syndrome.

Beyond the gut, the microbiome also plays crucial roles in other parts of the body. The skin microbiome protects against harmful microorganisms and supports skin health. The respiratory tract microbiome helps defend against respiratory infections and maintains respiratory health. Antibiotic use can potentially lead to respiratory conditions such as asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. The genitourinary microbiome, which includes the vaginal and urinary microbiomes, protects against infections and maintains urinary and reproductive health. Dysbiosis in these areas can result in conditions like bacterial vaginosis and urinary tract infections.

Concerning aspects

One particularly concerning aspect of antibiotic use is its impact on colonisation resistance. This is the ability of the native gut microbiome to protect against colonisation by pathogenic microorganisms. Beneficial bacteria consume available nutrients, limiting resources for pathogens. By occupying adhesion sites on the gut epithelium, commensal bacteria prevent pathogens from attaching and establishing themselves. Antibiotic use can reduce colonisation resistance, allowing harmful bacteria to take hold and proliferate, increasing the risk of infections.

Given the profound impact of antibiotics on the microbiome and the long-term health consequences of dysbiosis, it is crucial to use antibiotics judiciously. Implementing alternative practices, such as better hygiene, vaccination, and the use of bacteriophages, can reduce the reliance on antibiotics.

Antibiotics have revolutionised medicine, but their misuse poses serious threats. The concept of medicine being a poison when misused is particularly relevant here. In the right hands, these miracle molecules cure infections and save lives. However, if misused, they disrupt the microbiome and contribute to a host of health problems, essentially becoming poisons. Antibiotics are a prime example of the medicine-poison paradox. Preserving the balance of our microbiome is essential for maintaining our health. We must carefully consider our use of antibiotics before taking them.

(Abdul Ghafur, Consultant in Infectious Diseases, Apollo Hospital, Chennai and Coordinator of Chennai Declaration on AMR)

New mpox clade Ib disproportionately affects children

Bani Jolly
Vinod Scaria

The ongoing multinational mpox (formerly known as monkeypox) outbreaks continue to be a significant threat to public health systems across the world. The outbreak that gained global attention in 2022 has persisted, and as of mid-2024, the WHO reports that over 97,000 laboratory-confirmed cases and 203 deaths have been recorded across 116 countries, including the recent one in South Africa, which affected over 20 patients, suggesting that the global outbreak which started in 2022 is continuing unabated.

It is concerning that new massive outbreaks emerged last year in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), with significant human-to-human transmission. Over 14,000 cases and 500 deaths have been documented this year. Given the country's ongoing struggle with internal conflict and health infrastructure challenges, this is a cause of global concern with cases now being reported from almost 10 African nations. The WHO has recently called an emergency meeting with experts in this context, to assess the situation and evaluate whether to declare it as a public health emergency of international concern.

The emergence of mpox in the DRC is caused by a new clade of the virus, clade Ib, which emerged late last year and is characterised by severe disease and higher mortality. Broadly, the monkeypox virus has two clades. Clade I has been present in the DRC for several years causing sporadic outbreaks, while clade II (previously the West African clade) and specifically IIb emerged during the global mpox outbreak that attracted global attention in 2022. The clades are also characterised by distinct disease severity, with clade I known to be associated with severe disease and mortality compared to clade II, which has a mortality rate of less than 4%.

Widespread: Over 14,000 mpox cases and 500 deaths have been reported this year from 10 African countries. AP

The outbreak in the DRC is unique in many aspects. The unprecedented human-to-human transmission in a short period is in stark contrast with previous clade I infections, which were largely sporadic and potentially zoonotic in origin. While the initial spread was seemingly through sexual contact, the epidemiology of the disease rapidly shifted to affect children under 15 years who constitute over 60% of all cases and 80% of all deaths, with the largest case fatality rate in children aged less than one year. The rapid availability of whole genome sequencing of the virus from the outbreak could provide immense insights into the origin and spread of the outbreak.

A preprint has dated the emergence of the outbreak using a molecular clock to September 2023, apart from suggesting mutations in the binding site of primers used in diagnostics for clade I mpox. A recent preprint analysing 58 genome sequences of mpox suggests three potential clusters, driving the spread of infection in the DRC. Both analyses suggest a significant number of APOBEC3-induced mutations, confirming a significant human-to-human transmission.

The emerging situation in the DRC specifically and in Africa, in general, would potentially result in the declaration of a Public Health Emergency of Continental Security by Africa CDC with mpox spread across 16 countries in the continent. While there are many unanswered questions, including what drives the rapid spread and unprecedented emergence of clade I, the urgent need would be to enable the rollout of vaccines.

With only two major vaccine producers for the smallpox vaccine which was repurposed for mpox, and with little emphatic support from global organisations to enable diagnosis and prevention, the world might be awaiting another global outbreak in the immediate future. Molecular surveillance could be the best effort for countries like India, apart from international cooperation and developing indigenous capacity for vaccine manufacturing before it becomes too late.

(Bani Jolly is a senior scientist at Karkinos Healthcare. Vinod Scaria is a senior consultant at Vishwanath Cancer Care Foundation and adjunct professor at IIT Kanpur)

SNAPSHOTS

Saliva indicates severity of respiratory infections

A study involving one hundred children with recurrent respiratory infections shows that saliva measurements better indicate the severity of the disease than blood measurements. While there was no relationship between antibodies in the blood and disease burden, broadly protective antibodies that work against various pathogens were observed in the case of saliva. Children with lower levels of these antibodies had more severe infections. These antibodies in saliva served as a good indicator of disease burden.

A deep drill core unveils new insights into Earth's mantle

A record-breaking 1,268-metre drill core into Earth's mantle, collected from the Mid-Atlantic Ridge in the North Atlantic, has provided a detailed mineralogical glimpse of the oceanic mantle. The findings reveal new insights into mantle composition and earth's deep geology. Contrary to common models, melt migration was found to be oblique to mantle upwelling. The researchers observed hydrothermal fluid-rock interaction throughout the core, with oxidative weathering down to 200 metres.

Gene responsible for prickles in eggplants discovered

Scientists have discovered the gene responsible for prickles in eggplants, a trait that complicates farming. They identified the Prickly Eggplant gene on chromosome 6 and pinpointed SmLOG1 gene as the key factor. CRISPR-Cas9 gene editing confirmed that disabling the gene SmLOG1 eliminates prickles, paving the way for prickle-free eggplant varieties. This not only sheds light on prickle development but promises to streamline cultivation and harvesting.

Question Corner

Directional swimming

Are jellyfish randomly moving organisms?

Despite there being some evidence that jellyfish may actively affect their position, the role of active swimming in controlling jellyfish movement and the characteristics of jellyfish swimming behaviour, have not been fully understood. As a result, jellyfish are often considered as passively drifting or randomly moving organisms. A study using drone videos helped track multiple adjacent jellyfish. The analysis showed that the movement of jellyfish is modulated by distinctly directional swimming patterns that are oriented away from the coast and against the direction of surface gravity waves. The behaviour of individual jellyfish translates into synchronised directional swimming of the aggregation as a whole. The researchers undertook numerical simulations, which showed that the counter-wave swimming behaviour of jellyfish results in biased correlated random-walk movement patterns that reduce the risk of stranding. This provides the jellyfish with an advantage critical to their survival.

Readers may send their questions / answers to questioncorner@thehindu.co.in

FAQ

Why are India's 'Gaganyatris' going to the ISS?

What will they do on board the International Space Station? How will it help Gaganyaan mission?

Vasudevan Mukunth

The story so far:

On August 2, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) announced that two of the astronauts selected for its maiden human spaceflight mission, 'Gaganyaan', will train in the U.S. for a mission to the International Space Station. Wing Commander Shubhanshu Shukla has been assigned to fly to the ISS while Group Captain Prashanth Nair will be his backup. Both astronauts have flown to the U.S. and have begun their training.

What is this new mission?

On June 22, 2023, the U.S. and India issued a joint statement after Prime Minister Narendra Modi met President Joe Biden. The statement mentioned "a joint effort to the International Space Station in 2024". The two astronauts – or "Gaganyatris", as ISRO calls them – are the Indian participants in this mission.

In an August 2 statement, ISRO said: "During the mission, the Gaganyatri will undertake selected scientific research and technology demonstration experiments on board the ISS as well as engage in space outreach activities. The experiences gained during this mission will be beneficial for [Gaganyaan] and it will also strengthen human space flight cooperation between ISRO and NASA."

Who are part of India's crew?

On February 27, Mr. Modi announced the names of the four astronaut candidates for the Gaganyaan mission.

The other two, apart from Mr. Shukla and Mr. Nair, were Group Captains Ajit Krishnan and Angad Pratap.

They have undergone training in India and Russia; according to the India-U.S. joint statement, NASA will provide Mr. Shukla and Mr. Nair "advanced training ... at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas".

According to ISRO, a "National Mission Assignment Board" selected Mr. Shukla and Mr. Nair for the joint mission. Their flight to the ISS will next need to be approved by the Multilateral Crew Operations Panel.

'The main purpose of the India-U.S. joint mission to the ISS is to expose the two Indian astronauts to the way a spaceflight mission is conducted and to give them flight experience'

What are mission parameters?

According to ISRO's statement, its Human Spaceflight Centre has signed an agreement with Axiom Space, Inc. "for its upcoming Axiom-4 mission to the ISS". The mission, colloquially called Ax-4, is the fourth crewed mission to the ISS organised by Axiom Space, a private company based in Houston. In an August 7 interview, ISRO Chairman S. Somanath said India's share of the cost would be in the hundreds of crores of rupees.

Axiom plans to operate the world's first commercial space station and currently offers human spaceflight services. Mr. Shukla or Mr. Nair will fly to the ISS with three others: mission commander Peggy Whitson (U.S.) and mission specialists Sławosz Uznański (Poland) and Tibor Kapu (Hungary). SpaceX will provide the launch vehicle and its Crew Dragon capsule will house the crew. NASA has said the mission will last 14 days. According to the ISS's programme manager, Ax-4 will fly no sooner than November. In the August 7 media interaction, Mr. Somanath had said it is expected sometime "next year middle to end".

What is the schedule onboard the ISS?

Mr. Somanath recently said that the main purpose of the joint mission is to expose the two 'Gaganyatris' to the way a spaceflight mission is organised and conducted and to give them flight experience.

If he flies to the ISS, Mr. Shukla has also been designated the mission pilot – a responsibility Mr. Somanath said will put him through the paces of conducting a mission.

The two 'Gaganyatris' will also be conducting "five different experiments" onboard the ISS, according to Mr. Somanath, who added that "some of them... originated in India" while "some are international experiments" in which India will be "joint partner".

What is Gaganyaan's status?

ISRO has thus far completed the pad abort and the high-altitude abort tests, and has tested the crew escape system, among others.

In October 2023, Mr. Somanath told *The Hindu* the LVM-3 launch vehicle for the mission has virtually completed the process of being rated to carry humans. He added the crew module was being developed. He said engineers were working on the capsule's Environmental Control and Life Support System and the overall Integrated Vehicle Health Management System: "Every day, there is some test happening."

The next Gaganyaan milestones are a series of uncrewed suborbital and orbital test flights. The last of these is currently expected to happen in mid-2025, although the date could slip further.

Will Saudi's new law aid migrant workers?

Does the upcoming migrant domestic workers law address the gaps in protection benefits? What are some of the features? What is the Kafala system and how does it marginalise workers further? How many Indians work in Saudi Arabia? What are some of the problems they face?

Vani Saraswathi

The story so far:

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, one of the world's largest recipients of migrant domestic workers (MDWs), will roll out a new domestic workers law in September. The six GCC states (Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman, and Bahrain) employ close to 5.5 million migrant domestic workers, and all of them exclude MDWs from labour laws, with only four having passed specific domestic worker laws.

How many migrants work in Saudi Arabia?

In Saudi, as of the first quarter of 2024, there were 39,13,925 migrant domestic workers with 27,32,344 males and 11,81,581 females, making up 25% of the total workforce. The exclusion of these workers from the labour law leaves huge gaps in protection, as monitoring mechanisms such as labour inspections, complaints mechanisms, and the Wages Protection System do not apply to the sector. These vulnerabilities are further exacerbated by the systemic marginalisation of migrant workers under the Kafala system. The employer-tied visa system leaves lower-income migrant workers at the absolute mercy of their sponsors. In effect, the state has outsourced the immigration regime to individuals, the majority of whom are citizens.

The current and upcoming MDW laws do not address these protection gaps sufficiently. It is common knowledge that female MDWs face extreme abuse at the hands of their employers within households and by officials when they seek remedy. Saudi Arabia's regulations have failed to address these issues, and the broader justice mechanism that fails migrant workers in general is especially indifferent to the plight of MDWs.

Saudi still does not have a minimum wage, and mandatory referral wages apply only when prescribed in bilateral agreements by origin countries. This means MDWs are not only paid poorly but there are no clear calculations for overtime, though almost all of them are overworked.

The state makes it easy to recruit and employ migrant workers, resulting in extreme exploitation with impunity

Failed safeguards: Saudi Arabia has a poor record of implementing laws that protect the rights of migrant workers. GETTY IMAGES

Who are migrant domestic workers?

They are employed by individuals to render services in their household. The combination of exclusion from labour laws and the stranglehold of the Kafala system results in employers having absolute control over domestic workers. Saudi has 14 categories of domestic work. Some categories are recent additions, and concerningly, go beyond household work to roles requiring specialist skills.

As per the official data, there are over 20 lakh workers who fall under the category 'servants and house cleaners' – referring to domestic workers, nearly 60% of whom are female. The second most recruited category is drivers, at 18,17,120, almost all of whom are male. Saudi is the only GCC state where male domestic workers constitute the majority in the sector, at nearly 70%.

How does the Kafala system work?

GCC citizens are wealthy and can afford 'engines of liberation' – mechanised consumer goods that were meant to reduce the domestic labour of women. This has not played out as desired in most patriarchal cultures, even if women are active in the labour economy and the dependence on women's labour at home is still high. Large joint families living together demand a host of unpaid services that women in the household were once responsible for. With growing affluence and the assumption that domestic work is menial, these tasks are now delegated to paid MDWs, but the value placed on their work – and by extension them – remains low. Many of the mechanisms and institutions set up by Saudi to govern the sector tend to have an employer bias, including its Musaned system, the domestic worker recruitment platform, through which all aspects of the recruitment and employment of MDWs are regulated.

Consequently, the intersection of the Kafala system and labour law exclusion results in a type of bonded labour. The state makes it easy to recruit and employ migrant workers, resulting in extreme exploitation with impunity. The cost of recruitment excluding wages is steep – between U.S.$2,000 and U.S.$5,000 per worker – and employers feel they have 'bought' the worker, instead of seeing it as payment for services.

Is the new MDW law better?

Some notable features of the new law are a maximum of 10 working hours a day and entitlement to a weekly off day; prohibition of confiscation of identity documents; emphasis on workers' right to communication; workers have a right to terminate the contract without losing entitlements under certain conditions; compensation for unjust termination; one month paid leave yearly and employer must pay for the annual ticket home.

Saudi also introduced insurance on all new MDW contracts to protect workers and employers, the cost of which is built into the recruitment fees. More recently and quite significantly, the kingdom included all new MDWs in its WPS from July, and will gradually cover all existing MDWs by the end of 2025.

What are the persisting concerns?

Saudi has a poor record of implementation, especially when it comes to protecting the rights of migrant workers. Wage theft and labour exploitation are rampant, but employers are rarely held to account. When it comes to MDWs, especially women, they cannot leave the employer's household without permission and there's a risk of being reported as absconding (*huroob*).

Though the absconding regime has been reformed, making it more difficult to file false charges, and giving workers more time to challenge false accusations, the law still can be weaponised by abusive employers. The lack of labour inspections, limited access to communication, and language barriers make it difficult both for the state to assess the impact of reforms and for workers to report violations.

What is the status of Indian MDWs?

At 26.5 lakh, Indians constitute the single largest migrant population in the kingdom. Though Saudi does not furnish nationality-wise disaggregated data, by several estimations, the domestic work sector comprises a large percentage of Indians working as drivers, and also in other categories.

Recruitment of Indian MDWs must be through the eMigrate system. India's minimum referral wage for the sector is SAR1,500 (₹33,400). Special provisions for female MDWs – minimum age must be 30 – include a financial bank guarantee of U.S.$2,500 in favour of the Embassy in Riyadh. The contract must be attested at one of the missions in Saudi.

However, according to many workers in distress, consular support is limited at best to repatriation and there is no effort to help with access to justice or ensure workers receive all their entitlements before deportation. Given the size of the kingdom and the diaspora, the Embassy in Riyadh and the consulate office in Jeddah are not equipped enough to deal with these needs.

(Vani Saraswathi is the director of projects and editor-at-large of Migrant-Rights.Org, a GCC-based research and advocacy organisation)

How will Sheikh Hasina's exit impact India?

What was the state of ties between Delhi and Dhaka during Prime Minister Hasina's reign? What were the main areas of cooperation between the two countries? How were things different in Begum Khaleda Zia's term? Has India reached out to the new dispensation?

Suhasini Haidar

The story so far:

A week after protests in Bangladesh boiled over, forcing former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to flee to India, there's little clarity about her future. While the Narendra Modi government has given her shelter, it has also moved to engage the regime that replaced the Awami League government, even as it counts the cost of Bangladesh's political changes on India's relations with the country.

Is Ms. Hasina's ouster a setback for India?

Ms. Hasina's removal from power in Bangladesh is no doubt a dramatic setback for India, as both countries have transformed ties on every front in the past decade and a half. The worry is that all the progress made on the economic front, border security, defence, and strategic ties, trade and connectivity, and linking people-to-people could be undone.

What kind of transformation did her reign bring to relations between the two neighbours?

From her return to office (2009), Ms. Hasina made her intentions to forge strong ties with Delhi clear. She began a nationwide crackdown to shut down terror camps, a campaign against religious radicalisation, and extradited over 20 "most wanted" men accused of terrorism and crime to India. In sharp contrast to her predecessor Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's government, Ms. Hasina also worked on ending border tensions caused by illegal immigration into India, particularly the 2001 incident where brutal BDR-BSF clashes left 15 dead. Several border patrolling agreements and the signing of the historic 2015 land boundary agreement followed.

Several issues may complicate the Modi government's ties with the new regime in Bangladesh

Challenges ahead: PM Narendra Modi and former Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina during a meeting, in New Delhi, on June 22, 2024. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

In India, the Manmohan Singh government followed by the Modi government gave Bangladesh trade concessions and low-interest Lines of Credit to help Ms. Hasina take a country, once called the "basket case" of the global economy, to a developing country, that outstripped its neighbours on human development indices. India and Bangladesh worked on enhancing trade through connectivity, border 'haats', and rail, road and river links. This year Ms. Hasina and Mr. Modi even essayed new defence cooperation. Though Ms. Hasina's government grew more and more authoritarian in the past decade, banning and arresting Opposition leaders, legislating tighter controls on the media, and filing hundreds of cases against any civil society group that criticised her, New Delhi remained steadfast in supporting her. In turn, Ms. Hasina stood with India on every issue, from boycotting SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) over terrorism from Pakistan, to the Citizenship Amendment Act that set off protests in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh has become a lynchpin to India's regional connectivity plans to Southeast Asia and the Indo-Pacific, and an important buyer of Indian energy off the subcontinental grid. The worry is that many of the agreements signed, including the most recent power agreement with the Adani group, will now be reviewed.

Can New Delhi forge similar ties with the new government?

New Delhi has shown that it continues to engage the interim government and any future elected government in Dhaka. The Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka, Pranay Verma, attended the swearing-in ceremony of the new interim government led by Muhammad Yunus.

However, several issues complicate the Modi government's ties with the new regime in Bangladesh. Firstly, Ms. Hasina's presence in India is viewed with suspicion in Dhaka. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's statement in Parliament that she has come to India just "for the moment" indicates that New Delhi would like to see her travel elsewhere until some of the anti-Hasina sentiments in Bangladesh die down. Things will get trickier if the new government there demands her extradition.

Secondly, elections in Bangladesh could throw up the BNP as winners, and India's experience with Ms. Zia's last stint in power (2001-2006) was bitter. During that time, Bangladesh became a haven for violent anti-India separatist groups, and China and Pakistan made inroads. It remains to be seen if two decades on, another BNP government will be different. Thirdly, Mr. Modi's appeal for the safety of Hindus and other minorities, as well as the Ministry of Home Affairs setting up a five-member committee to "maintain communication channels with their counterpart authorities in Bangladesh to ensure the safety of Indian citizens and people belonging to minority communities in Bangladesh," are being seen as partisan in Dhaka. Hundreds have been killed in violence in the past few weeks; Mr. Modi's appeal and setting up of the committee will further complicate Delhi-Dhaka ties.

Will Bangladesh's ties with other countries change?

The immediate impact of the changes in Dhaka will be felt in ties with the U.S., which was consistently inimical to the Hasina government, and has even been accused of instigating her downfall. Last year, the U.S. State Department passed a special visa policy to "promote democracy" in Bangladesh, seeking to sanction officials who attempted to subvert elections. This was targeted at Ms. Hasina and the Awami League, and thus ties with the new dispensation will likely improve. Bangladesh's ties with Pakistan had also been tense during Ms. Hasina's tenure, and that could change. Ms. Hasina had close ties with China, joining the Belt and Road Initiative and meeting President Xi Jinping. Beijing will likely forge equally strong ties with the new government in Dhaka.

The mainstream Democrat

Tim Walz

If Kamala Harris is seen as a tough former prosecutor who speaks out strongly on core Democratic issues such as reproductive rights, her running mate has a reputation for flipping Republican districts in favour of Democrats by reaching out to independent and undecided voters

Narayan Lakshman

Tim Walz, Governor of Minnesota, may not in his wildest dreams have imagined that one day he would be picked as a running mate alongside a U.S. presidential candidate, yet that was indeed how the plot twist on the Democratic side played out at this tail end of the 2024 election season.

Mr. Walz, a man whose demeanour has been described as "folksy" and who has said on the record that Republican challenger and former President Donald Trump's policy priorities were "weird", may in fact turn out to be the perfect foil to Kamala Harris, the Democratic Party's presumptive nominee for the race to the White House in November. Not only do the two Democratic leaders' profiles offer a balance of gender and racial parity for their campaign, but their track records suggest that their popular appeal among the electorate may be as broad as the party could hope.

Ms. Harris is seen as a tough former prosecutor who speaks out strongly on core Democratic issues such as reproductive rights, and Mr. Walz has a reputation for flipping Republican districts in favour of Democrats by reaching out to independent and undecided voters.

In a sense, Ms. Harris' pick was a close call, and many had assumed that the frontrunner in that race was Josh Shapiro, Governor of Pennsylvania, a critical swing State whose votes the Democrats will certainly need if they're to win the presidency. In this context, her selecting Mr. Walz says more about his personality and antecedents than it does about the calculus of regional politics for the election.

So, what does Mr. Walz bring to the table?

Small-town childhood

Born to a middle-class family – his father was a school teacher – in West Point, Nebraska, a small town, and graduating from high school from an even smaller town called Butte, Mr. Walz has said his values were shaped by such a rural upbringing: "A town that small had services like that and had a public school with a government teacher that inspired me to be sitting where I'm at today."

He went on to graduate with a degree in social science education from Chadron State College in Nebraska and an MSc in educational leadership from Minnesota State University in 2001. Following the footsteps of his father, an Army veteran who served in the Korean War, Mr. Walz served in the Army National Guard after high school. He ended up serving in the Army for a total of 24 years, during which time he rose to the rank of command sergeant major and then retired from the 1-125th Field Artillery Battalion in 2005.

After completing his university education, he spent a year teaching in China as part of one of the first cohorts of American educators authorised by the U.S. government to teach in Chinese high schools – clearly an experience that had a lasting influence on him, as he is said to still speak Mandarin.

Democratic representation

It would have been expected that with this diverse and rich experience under his belt Mr. Walz would plunge deeper into the education sector and the teaching profession, yet that was not to be. The story goes that during the 2004 presidential election, Mr. Walz was teaching and took his class to a George W. Bush campaign event to give his students a sense of what democratic politics looked like. When the Secret Service at the event saw that some of his students were sporting clothing indicating that they were supporters of Bush's Democratic opponent, John Kerry, they ejected the students from the rally, an act that angered Mr. Walz and propelled him towards joining politics as a local campaign manager for Mr. Kerry.

From that point on, there was no turning back for him. In 2006, Mr. Walz stood for Congress in Minnesota's first district, "a heavily rural area covering the south of Minnesota where only one other Democrat had won in the preceding century". Despite poor odds, Mr. Walz ended up winning with 53% of the vote. With a firm grip on this tough district, Mr. Walz was re-elected every two years there until 2018, when he retired to run for Governor of Minnesota. His consistent record of popularity with his constituents was reflected in the gubernatorial capacity as well, and his State voted for him not only in 2018 but also in 2022, making him the present incumbent.

ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH

Mr. Walz's active career in the House of Representatives clearly underscores his credentials as a reliable progressive within the firmament of Democratic Party leaders. Not only did his former career choices of school teacher and army vet consistently win him respect among his peers and constituents over the years, but his voting record shows that he ranks among the Democratic Party mainstream – for example multiple votes over the years in favour of raising the minimum wage, supporting stem cell research, giving Medicare greater leeway to negotiate for affordable medicines, lowering tuition costs for university students and in backing reproductive rights.

He is not, however, entirely unfamiliar to controversies, personal and political, including, in the former category, an arrest, charge and related conviction in 1995, when he was still a teacher, for driving under the influence. He has since become a teetotaller. On the political front, as soon as his pick for Ms. Harris' running mate was announced, Mr. Walz was targeted by the Republican campaign with comments such as "No one is more pro-China than Marxist Walz."

Yet, the truth is that Mr. Walz, while no doubt cherishing his time teaching in China and even setting up a business with his wife that organised annual summer educational trips to that country, is fairly hard-nosed on his view about violations of human rights in the region.

He is known, for example, to have met with both the Dalai Lama and high-profile Hong Kong democracy activist, Joshua Wong prior, to the latter's arrest, when Mr. Walz was a Congressman. Reports note that during his time in Congress, Mr. Walz spent more than a decade serving on the Executive Commission on China, described as "a body focused on scrutinising the Chinese government's human rights abuses".

Safe pick

While it is expected that the Harris-Walz duo will deliver, in what remains of this election season, a policy agenda and campaign effort that truly reflects the full power and value set of the Democratic Party as it stands today – and that matters for complex issues such as immigration reform and job creation – it remains to be seen whether either of them commands a sufficiently broad recognition among voters that could rival the reputation of Mr. Trump. The voters' choice will, however, set the tenor for the brand of politics that Americans want to see for the next four years – continuing polarisation across issues, or genuine attempts to build unity across the partisan divide.

THE GIST

- Born to a middle-class family in West Point, Nebraska, a small town, and graduating from high school from an even smaller town called Butte, Tim Walz has said his values were shaped by such a rural upbringing
- In 2006, Mr. Walz stood for Congress in Minnesota's first district, "a heavily rural area covering the south of Minnesota where only one other Democrat had won in the preceding century".
- His consistent record of popularity with his constituents was reflected in the gubernatorial capacity as well, as Minnesota voted for him not only in 2018 but also in 2022, making him the present incumbent

Wrestler emeritus

Vinesh Phogat

The Asian Games gold medallist, who had beaten career-threatening injuries and stood up against alleged sexual harassment by former WFI chief, remains a symbol of resilience

Y.B. Sarangi

When we met an 18-year-old Vinesh Phogat in her rookie year at the National championships in Nandini Nagar, Gonda, Uttar Pradesh, her cherubic smile belied her steely resolve. Hailing from Balali village in Charkhi Dadri, Haryana, she had already built a reputation as a promising wrestler and showed it on the mat by claiming a National title.

By that time, the Phogat surname had become famous following Geeta's 2010 Commonwealth Games gold medal and both Geeta and her sister Babita's World championships bronze medals two years later. The general impression was that Vinesh was one of the Phogat sisters. Only a few knew that the youngster was a cousin of the famous Phogats and wanted to make a name for herself.

Vinesh, who turns 30 in August, has succeeded in achieving what she wanted. Her sound game, rock-like determination, smart thinking and a fearless approach ensured her rise. Within a few months, she took a bronze in the 51kg at the Asian championships to prove her mettle.

Since then, Vinesh has not looked back. She went on to become the first Indian woman wrestler to claim gold medals in both the Commonwealth Games and Asian Games and two bronze medals in the World championships.

However, success at the Olympics has eluded her. In her Olympics debut in Rio 2016, she dislocated her knee in a 48kg quarter-final bout and had to be stretchered off from the mat. Her injury looked so bad that her return to competitive wrestling seemed doubtful but she made a miraculous recovery.

A flop show in the Tokyo Olympics, where she competed in the 53kg category, followed by her suspension by the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) for 'indiscipline,' which was later revoked, spoiled her second appearance at the Games.

The dramatic loss of her medal after reaching the 50kg final in the Paris Olympics was shocking. She was disqualified (as per the United World Wrestling rules) after being overweight by only 100gm on the second day of the competition prior to her final. It was a never-before occurrence for an Indian wrestler in the Olympics.

Vinesh, returning from a knee surgery, always wanted to compete in the 53kg category and was keen to challenge Antim Panghal, who had secured a quota place in the same weight. Since the Union Sports Ministry had de-recognised the WFI and the sport was being run by an ad-hoc body, there was confusion as to whether there would be a trial between the quota place winner and a challenger prior to the Olympics (such a decision was a prerogative of the federation). Because of this, Vinesh, a two-time Worlds medallist in 53kg, chose to compete in the 50kg selection trials, bagging a quota place.

Nevertheless, her decision to drop down to 50kg was always a gamble as it potentially weakened her due to the significant weight loss of nearly seven kg from her normal body weight.

Ultimately, her gamble backfired. She sensationally stunned Japan's World and Olympic champion Yui Susaki on her way to the title clash before seeing the script change unexpectedly the next morning.

An emotionally broken Vinesh decided to hang up her boots soon after her disqualification.

Vinesh's life has not been one-dimensional. She has been a fighter off the mat too. Apart from successfully beating some career-threatening injuries, Vinesh, known for calling a spade a spade, showed her feisty nature as she famously stood up against alleged sexual harassment by former WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh. She was backed by other pre-eminent athletes, including Olympic medallists Sakshi Malik and Bajrang Punia. Fighting for a cause she believed in, Vinesh literally took on the police on the streets of New Delhi. The spectacular scenes beamed on various television and digital channels and photos splashed in newspapers across the country triggered the debate over women sportspersons' safety.

All through Vinesh's battle for 'justice,' her wrestler husband Somvir Rathee provided unwavering support. Because of all her fights on and off the mat, Vinesh has emerged as a symbol of woman power and resilience.

The banker who became ruler

Muhammad Yunus

The Nobel Laureate, who faced arrest when Sheikh Hasina was in power, is now tasked with stabilising Bangladesh and restoring democracy

Suchitra Karthikeyan

ILLUSTRATIONS: SREEJITH R. KUMAR

"If action is needed in Bangladesh, for my country and for the courage of my people, then I will take it," Muhammad Yunus, the micro-finance pioneer and Nobel prize winner, said on August 6, a day after Sheikh Hasina resigned as Prime Minister and left Bangladesh. Coordinators of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement, which spearheaded the anti-government protests in Bangladesh, had urged Mr. Yunus to head an interim administration. After the military gave its nod, Mr. Yunus, 84, was sworn in as the head of the interim government on August 8.

"In Dr. Yunus, we trust," wrote Asif Mahmud, a key leader of the student movement, in a Facebook post, echoing the widespread acceptability Mr. Yunus has in Bangladesh's fractious polity.

Born on June 28, 1940, in Chittagong, East Bengal (now Bangladesh), Muhammad Yunus, the third of nine children, completed his primary and college education in Bangladesh and PhD in the U.S.

Then, he began teaching economics at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, U.S., in 1969.

As his homeland was struggling for liberation from Pakistan, Mr. Yunus lobbied the U.S. Congress to stop military aid to Pakistan. He also helped raise support for the Liberation movement by running a Bangladesh Information Center in Washington DC, a Citizen's Committee in Nashville, Tennessee, and published the Bangladesh Newsletter.

With the birth of Bangladesh, he returned home, joining the Economics Department of University of Chittagong in 1972. As the newly-liberated country suffered a famine in 1974, he forayed into rural economics, studying economic aspects of poverty. In his visits to farming households in Chittagong's Jobra region, he realised the necessity and effectiveness of small loans to women bamboo furniture makers, freeing them from the claws of loan sharks. Initiating the first 'small loan', Mr. Yunus lent $27 to 42 families in Jobra to manufacture their items for sale.

This idea gave birth to microfinance in 1976, where Mr. Yunus offered himself as the guarantor and secured a credit line from Janata Bank to lend small loans to Jobra residents. In 1983, Grameen Bank was established, specialising on small loans. Over 100 nations, including India, have replicated this model. As of 2024, Grameen Bank has 2,568 branches across 81,678 villages with 10.61 million borrowers.

Mr. Yunus's pioneering work in microfinance won him the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006.

Political entry

In February 2007, when both Ms. Hasina and BNP leader Khaleda Zia were in jail, Mr. Yunus announced the formation of the Nagorik Shakti party and promised to contest polls.

However, he dropped the plans within months due to lack of public support.

On taking power in 2009, Ms. Hasina's government began scrutinising Mr. Yunus and Grameen Bank. In 2011, he was removed as managing director of the bank, as he had passed the retirement age of 60. While he challenged his ouster, he lost the court battle, accusing Ms. Hasina of targetting him.

The micro-financing model itself came under the scanner after Mr. Yunus admitted that some organisations may have abused the system for profit. The lack of collateral in such loans have attracted high interest rates by some banks, leading to borrowers falling into more debt.

In 2019, an arrest warrant was issued against Mr. Yunus for three alleged breaches under the Labour Act. In May 2023, Bangladesh's Anti-Corruption Commission accused Mr. Yunus and several others of misusing funds from the workers' welfare fund. After a lengthy trial, Mr. Yunus and his colleagues were convicted in January this year, days after Ms. Hasina began her fourth consecutive term as Prime minister.

Within six months, chaos and violence broke out in Bangladesh, which would trigger dramatic developments.

Now Ms. Hasina, whose government sought to incarcerate him, is out of power and out of the country, while Mr. Yunus is heading an interim government, tasked with overseeing an orderly political transition.

WASHINGTON

U.S. troops attacked in northeast Syria, no initial reports of injuries

GETTY IMAGES

U.S. troops in northeastern Syria were attacked by a drone, a U.S. official said on Friday, although there were no injuries according to initial reports. This is the second attack in recent days against U.S. forces in West Asia as the region braces for a possible new wave of attacks by Iran and its allies in the wake of the Gaza war. REUTERS

SEOUL

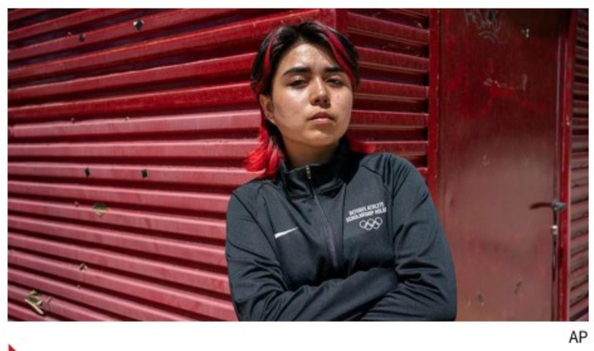
North Korea shifting more than 15,000 flood victims to capital

REUTERS

North Korea will move more than 15,000 flood victims to the capital, as leader Kim Jong-un insisted recovery efforts would be "based on self-reliance" despite offers of aid from abroad. Pyongyang last week said a record downpour in late July had killed an unspecified number of people in its northern regions near China. AFP

PARIS

Afghan refugee breaker Talash disqualified at Paris Olympics



AP

Refugee breaker Manizha Talash, or "b-girl Talash," was disqualified from the first ever Olympic breaking competition on Friday after she wore a cape that said "Free Afghan Women" during her pre-qualifier battle. The 21-year-old lost in the pre-qualifier battle and would not have advanced even if she hadn't been disqualified. AFP

BEIRUT

Hezbollah launches 'squadrons of drones' at Israel after Sidon attack

AP

Lebanon's Iran-back Hezbollah group said it launched on Saturday explosive-laden drones at a north Israel Army base following the killing of a Hamas commander in south Lebanon a day earlier. Hezbollah launched "squadrons of explosive-laden drones" at the Michve Alon base near the Galilee town of Safed. AFP

At least 12 killed in twin Bangladesh jailbreaks

Agence France-Presse
DHAKA

"Twin jailbreaks in Bangladesh killed at least 12 inmates and freed hundreds more in the chaotic days after the ouster of autocratic premier Sheikh Hasina," officials said on Saturday.

This week's prison escapes, both north of the capital Dhaka, are the latest in a series of breakouts.

"Six convicts were killed at Jamapur Prison on Thursday after prison guards were assaulted by escapees," the warden said.

"On Tuesday another six prisoners were shot dead during a mass breakout at a high-security prison in Kashimpur, just 30 km north of Dhaka," the warden said.

2 U.S. lawmakers raise attack on minorities in Bangladesh

Indian-American duo seek U.S. intervention to stop 'coordinated' anti-Hindu attacks; they say that instability in the region, fuelled by religious intolerance, is not in the interest of the U.S. or its allies

Press Trust of India
WASHINGTON

Two prominent Indian-American lawmakers have sought the U.S.'s direct intervention to stop the "coordinated attacks" against minority Hindus in Bangladesh, underlining that instability in the region, "fuelled by religious intolerance and violence", is not in the interest of America or its allies.

Members of minority communities in Bangladesh faced at least 205 incidents of attacks in 52 districts since the fall of the Sheikh Hasina-led government on August 5.

Life and death: Hindus in Bangladesh participate in a protest and block the Shahbagh intersection in Dhaka on Saturday. PTI

Thousands of Bangladeshi Hindus have been trying to flee to India to escape the violence.

In a letter dated August 9 to Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Congressman Shri Thanedar said he is not alone in his stance against the atrocities being committed against Hindus in Bangladesh.

Many in the international community, including some from his own district, have condemned the violent actions being committed against minority groups in Bangladesh.

Credible witnesses

In a letter dated August 8 to Mr. Blinken, a copy of which was released on Friday, Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi said credible eyewitness reports of the attacks in media reports demonstrate the scale of the attacks.

Mr. Krishnamoorthi underlined that instability in the region, "fuelled by religious intolerance and violence, is clearly not in the interest of the United States or our allies".

Maduro rules out negotiating with opposition about polls

Agence France-Presse
CARACAS

President Nicolas Maduro on Friday ruled out negotiating with opposition leader Maria Corina Machado after he appeared before Venezuela's Supreme Court, asking the country's top judicial body to ratify his disputed re-election.

He was responding to Ms. Machado's offer of "guarantees and incentives" for a "negotiated transition" of power that would see him leave office, in an interview with AFP as she continues to challenge the July 28 vote.

Obstinate stand: Nicolás Maduro after appearing before the electoral chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice. GETTY IMAGES

Political crisis

The South American nation has been in political crisis since election authorities declared Mr. Maduro the winner of last month's poll, a decision questioned both at home and abroad.

The National Electoral Council (CNE) has yet to release detailed results from the vote, while the opposition has released copies of 84% of ballots cast, showing an easy win for their candidate, Edmundo Gonzalez Urrutia. The government says those results are forged.

The Supreme Court – seen as aligned with Mr. Maduro – summoned all presidential candidates, though Gonzalez Urrutia refused to attend. Mr. Maduro did so on Friday, after which he directed a warning to Ms. Machado.

"The only person in this country who needs to negotiate with Machado is the public prosecutor," Mr. Maduro said after his hearing.

150 Rohingya killed in attack by ethnic group in Myanmar

Associated Press
BANGKOK

The Arakan Army is accused of attacking Rohingya fleeing from Maungdaw town to Bangladesh

At least 150 civilians from Myanmar's Muslim Rohingya minority may have been killed this week in an artillery and drone attack in the western State of Rakhine that survivors suspect was carried out by a major force in the resistance to military rule.

The Arakan Army denied responsibility for the assault on Monday on Rohingya trying to flee fierce fighting in Maungdaw town by crossing the Naf River into Bangladesh.

A statement issued on Friday by medical assistance group Doctors Without Borders, said that in the past week, it has been treating increasing numbers of Rohingya people with violence-related injuries. The statement said some patients "reported seeing people bombed while trying to find boats to cross the river into Bangladesh and escape the violence. Others described seeing hundreds of dead bodies on the riverbanks."

Two self-described survivors blamed the Arakan Army, as did Rohingya activists and Myanmar's military government. The attack, if confirmed, would be one of the deadliest involving civilians in the country's civil war.

Philippines accuses Chinese Air Force of 'provocative' actions

Agence France-Presse
MANILA

The Philippine military on Saturday accused China's air force of "dangerous and provocative actions" against one of its planes patrolling over a disputed South China Sea reef.

Two China air force aircraft "executed a dangerous manoeuvre at around 9:00 a.m. and dropped flares in the path of our NC-212i," armed forces chief General Romeo Brawner said in a statement, recounting the alleged incident on Thursday "over" Scarborough Shoal.

He said the Chinese action "endangered the lives of our personnel undertaking maritime security operations," adding that the pilot and crew were unharmed and "safely returned" to a northern Philippines air base.

China's defence

China defended its operations on Saturday, saying it had "organised naval and air forces to lawfully... (drive) away" the Philippine plane, following "repeated warnings".

The statement did not say what specific actions China took, describing its operations as "professional, standard, legitimate and legal".

The incident is the latest in an increasingly tense confrontation between Manila and Beijing, which claims most of the South China Sea and seized the shoal after a 2012 stand-off with the Philippines.

Russia mounts 'counter-terror operation' in three regions along Ukraine border

Agence France-Presse
MOSCOW

Moscow on Saturday mounted a "counter-terror operation" in three border regions adjoining Ukraine to halt Kyiv's advance deeper into Russia and warned that the fighting endangered a nuclear power plant.

Ukrainian units stormed into Russia's western Kursk region on Tuesday morning in a shock attack, the largest and most successful cross-border offensive by Kyiv of the two-and-a-half year conflict.

Its troops have advanced several kilometres and Russia's Army has rushed in reserves and extra equipment – though neither side has given precise details on the forces they have committed.

Crippling strike: Russian Army trucks damaged in shelling by the Ukrainian Armed Forces in Kursk region of Russia on Friday. AP

Russia's nuclear agency on Saturday warned the Ukrainian attack posed a "direct threat" to the nearby Kursk nuclear power station.

State assistance

At least 16,000 civilians requested state assistance to leave their homes in Russian border areas, where emergency aid has been ferried in, and extra trains to the capital Moscow have been put on for people fleeing.

Russia's Army confirmed on Saturday it was still fighting the Ukrainian incursion.

It said Kyiv initially crossed the border with around 1,000 troops, around 20 armoured vehicles and 11 tanks.

Government of Karnataka
DISTRICT HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT KALABURAGI
DISTRICT PROGRAMMING OFFICER
DISTRICT BLINDNESS CONTROL SOCIETY, KALABURAGI
dlogulbarga@gmail.com, Ph: 08472-278649

Ref. No. DHFWS/2023-24/IND0561/CALL-2 Date : 08-08-2024

-: SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION :-

1) Name of the work: Supply of Spectacles under ASHA KIRANA for 19-39 Middle Age Group in Kalaburagi District. (Re-Tender), 2) Tender Amount : **196.93/- Lakhs,** 3) Last Date and Time for uploading of eTender in eProcurement portal: **19-08-2024 @ 16.00 Hrs**, 4) Date and Time of Online Opening of Technical Bids: **20-08-2024 @ 16:30 Hrs**, 5) Date and Time of Equipments Demonstration (Sample Submmission): Shall be Intimated later, 6) Date and time of financial bid opening: **22-08-2024 @ 12:00 Hrs (Tentative)**, 7) Address: DHFWS, District Leprosy Office, beside GIMS Hospital KALABURAGI-585102

Sd/- District Blindness Control Officer
Kalaburagi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/320/KSMC&A/2024-25

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Auction Schedules on 21.08.2024
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

E-Acution Catalogue No.	Stations	Category/ Sub-Category
PARKING-NTW-JRU	Nanjungud Town Railway Station, Chikajajur Railway Station	Parking-Mixed

Last date of submission of bid for tender
Up to : 15:00 Hours on 21.08.2024
For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**
Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Mysore
PUB/330/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

RASHTRIYA MILITARY SCHOOL, BENGALURU
(A Residential Public School under Ministry of Defence
Govt of India & Affiliated to CBSE, Delhi)
(WALK IN INTERVIEW)

Required Teachers on Contractual basis:-

S/No	Vacancy	No of vacancy	Salary	Essential Qualification
(a)	Assistant Master (Science)	02(Two)	₹ 20,000/-pm consolidated	B Sc from a recognized university. B Ed from a recognized university.

Desirable Qualification:-
1. Post Graduate in concerned subjects from any recognized University.
2. One year teaching experience from any recognized university (Secondary Level/Class).
3. Proficiency in English in reading, writing and speaking.
4. Basic knowledge of using Microsoft Office in computer.
5. Minimum senior secondary level participation in games or sports

A walk in interview will be conducted on 19 Aug 2024 at 0900 hrs
Eligible Candidates to report to school directly

Sd-Principal

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL SHAHABAD
Kalaburagi District, Kalaburagi, E-mail: shahabadcity.mrc.gov.in/
emaillditstaff_ulb_shahabad@yahoo.com

No.CMC/ES/15thFC/SBM 2.0/2024-25 Date: 08.08.2024

-: TENDER NOTIFICATION :-

The Municipal Commissioner, CMC Shahabad Dist Kalaburagi invites tenders in accordance with KTPP Act 1999 rules 2000 through E-Procurement 2.0 KPPP Portal in one & two cover system using KW-1 KW-2 KW-3 document from Eligible contractors for 15th FC 2020-21(Savings) and 15thFC 2023-24, 2024-25 and SBM 2.0 MRF work Projects Kalaburagi District works as detailed below (total number of works 6):-
1) **Indent Number** : 1. DMA/2024-25/WS/Work_Indent25340, 2. DMA/2024-25/EL/Work_Indent25191, 3. DMA/2024-25/BD/Work_Indent22282, 4. DMA/2024-25/BD/Work_Indent20591 (SC), 5. DMA/2024-25/WS/Work_Indent25519 (ST), 6. DMA/2024-25/IND2207/Call-2, 2) Amount of Estimate Rs. in Lakhs : **Min. 5.74, Max. 84.00,** 3) Amount of EMD in Rupees : min. 14350, max. 168000, 4) Class of Contractor : As per KPPP Portal
Contractors can download and submit the tenders through E-procurement 2.0 portal at **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically. Calendar of Events and other information are as follows:
1) Pre Bid Meeting Date: **19.08.2024 at 11.30 AM**, 2) Last Date & Time for Tender Queries/ Clarifications: **22.08.2024 up to 5.30 PM**, 3) Last Date & Time for receipt of Tenders: **23.08.2024 up to 5.30 PM,** 4) Date & Time for Opening of Tender for Single Cover and Technical Bid for Double Cover: **26.08.2024 at 11.00 AM**, 5) Date & Time for Opening of Financial Bid for double cover: **31.08.2024 at 11.00 AM**

Sd/- Municipal Commissioner
CMC Shahabad

DIPR/Kalaburagi/323/KSMC&A/2024-25

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

11th ANNIVERSARY

Dear ROBERT,
You taught me the true meaning of love & life, in every quiet moment your presence is felt
regards ***Wife & Daughter***

IN MEMORIAM

IN LOVING MEMORY

P.D. Vijayakumar
(PDV)
2-10-1951 | 30-07-2024
You will always be remembered
Sumathi, Sandeep, Vani Abhiram, Bhavya & Family

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
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ON A HIGH

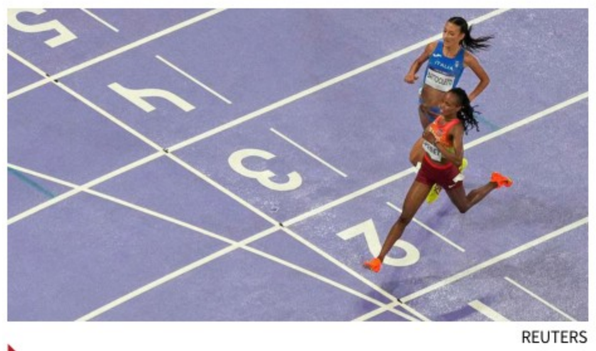
Diaz leaps to gold as Cuban-origin triple jumpers dominate the pit

REUTERS

Spain's Jordan Diaz won gold in the men's triple jump at the Paris Olympics on Friday with a jump of 17.86m. Portugal's Pedro Pichardo took silver with 17.84m while Andy Diaz, representing Italy, claimed the bronze with 17.64m. All three men were born in Cuba and represented the country before switching allegiance.

A DOUBLE

Beatrice Chebet clinches women's 10,000m gold with sizzling run



REUTERS

Kenya's Beatrice Chebet won the Olympic women's 10,000m gold in Paris on Friday, adding to her 5,000m crown to again scupper the hopes of defending champion Sifan Hassan. Chebet, the world record holder, clocked 30m 43.25s. Italy's Nadia Battocletti claimed silver in 30:43.35, while Hassan bagged the bronze.

DELIGHT

Swanson scripts a golden journey for USA in women's football

AFP

Mallory Swanson scored the winning goal as the United States edged Brazil 1-0 in Saturday's Olympic women's football final to claim the gold medal for a record-extending fifth time. It is the first time the USA has taken the Olympic title in 12 years, its gold in Paris adding to those won in 1996, 2004, 2008 and 2012.

LIGHT WORK

A new World record and 89kg gold for Nasar, the 'Man from Mars'

GETTY IMAGES

Bulgarian Karlos Nasar became the lightest man to lift 400kg in competition as he shattered the men's 89kg weightlifting World record at the Olympics on Friday. "The Olympic Games are like going into space for me and I feel like I'm on Mars," said the 20-year-old Nasar, who clinched the gold.

'It's the reality of sports, happy with the silver I won'

Neeraj says that javelin is a technical sport and there is always scope for improvement; he feels that there are a few things he needs to work on during the off-season and come back stronger

PARIS 2024

Y.B. Sarangi
PARIS

Since the country became independent, the Indian National anthem has been played at the Olympics platform only seven times. Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra's historic performance in the Tokyo Games provided the Indians with one of those opportunities.

Neeraj could not repeat his Tokyo heroics as Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem beat him to the top spot at the Stade de France. The Indian did not have the privilege of standing to the National anthem again, but has taken his silver medal in his stride and is proud to have contributed to the country's medals tally at the greatest show on earth.

"It's the reality of sports. No matter how big a champion someone is, he does not always win. Sometime or the other the result does not go in his favour.

"It would have been great had the National anthem been played. But I am happy with the silver medal I won for the country," Neeraj told *The Hindu* during his visit to the Omega House here.

Neeraj had some issues with his run-up during the javelin final, after which he was seen going up to that area to check something. "A lot of my throws were foul throws. Some of those I did deliberately, though. I was just checking where I got blocked. I just wanted to have a look at the area."

Aggressive side

On the field, Neeraj pumps himself up with some aggression, which sometimes may be misconstrued as his anger. "Yes, I do get angry. I can't say I get angry on the field. I get aggressive on the field and it is necessary sometimes. I try to handle it. Along with the aggression, I try to keep my focus on technique and performance."

Too much going on: Neeraj says it is difficult to focus on the process when you are worried about your injury. RITU RAJ KONWAR

During his performances, Neeraj has been careful about the injury he has been carrying for some time. He agreed that it affected his focus. "Yes, it is difficult to compete despite an injury. Instead of the performance, you focus more on not aggravating the injury. Despite that, I performed well and got my season best throw."

Apart from addressing injury issues, Neeraj, who is yet to cross the 90m mark, wanted to improve the technical side of the game.

"Javelin is a technical sport. You always have some scope for improvement. There are a few things that I have to improve and I will work on that in the next off-season."

Several athletes across various disciplines have raised concerns about mental health. But Neeraj is gifted with the equanimity to handle tough situations posed by the demands of modern-day sports.

"I don't do anything (for good mental health). I just work hard and keep my focus on it," said Neeraj, looking forward to raising the bar in future.

It is very emotional to be welcomed so warmly, says Harmanpreet

A legendary pose: Members of the Indian men's hockey team at the Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium on Saturday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

Members of the bronze-winning Indian men's hockey team returned early on Saturday morning to a warm welcome and a hectic day of felicitations, meetings, and media interactions. The players, led by Harmanpreet Singh, expressed satisfaction with the Paris performance.

India was the only team from the Tokyo Games three years back to retain a spot on the podium, winning back-to-back medals after a gap of 52 years. Eleven of the 16 members, along with the reserve players, arrived here with the remaining scheduled to return after the closing ceremony, including goalkeeper P.R. Sreejesh who will be the second flagbearer.

"It is very emotional to be welcomed so warmly. Our target was always gold, but unfortunately that could not happen. But we are happy we did not come back without a medal because we had spared no effort in our preparations and the way the team played throughout the tournament, we deserved it," a visibly tired but smiling Harmanpreet said.

The team was received by fans and Hockey India officials and, after brief interactions with the media, moved to the Major Dhyan Chand national stadium for an official felicitation and meeting with Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya.

The team also paid its respects to Dhyan Chand at the stadium.

"The entire nation is proud of the team's achievement. This victory is a testament to your perseverance, teamwork, and indomitable spirit. Hockey is more than just a sport for us – it's a symbol of national pride. The hard work, commitment, and passion by the team has shown what can be achieved with resolve and determination," Mandaviya said.

Vice-captain Hardik Singh, hand in sling after the collision he suffered in the bronze-medal match against Spain, admitted the quarterfinal against Great Britain, which India was forced to play with 10 men for almost three quarters, brought the team closer than anything else.

"The trust we had in each other, the belief that a teammate will step up to cover if you miss a step, is what pushed us. And it really shone through in the match against GB. And if all else failed we had the big man, Sreejesh, between the posts to bail us out," he admitted.

"The Paris Olympics was an unforgettable experience. The team has proved that Indian hockey is back on track. All we need is belief in our team and continued support from the fans."

"I request everyone to continue loving hockey and supporting us, and we will continue to give our all to keep winning," Harmanpreet, who finished as the tournament's top scorer with 10 goals, hoped.

CAS defers decision on Vinesh

Y.B. Sarangi
PARIS

The ad-hoc committee of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) on Saturday deferred the decision on wrestler Vinesh Phogat's appeal against her disqualification for being 100g above the permissible weight.

While the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) claimed that the decision had been deferred until Sunday 6 p.m. (Paris time), a legal counsel associated with the case said the time limit was extended till 6 p.m. on August 13.

The CAS first deferred the decision until 6 p.m. local time on Saturday. Later, it decided to move the time limit further.

According to Article 18 of the CAS Arbitration Rules for the Olympic Games, the panel shall give a decision within 24 hours of the lodging of the application. In exceptional cases, this time limit may be extended by the President of the ad-hoc committee if circumstances so require.

After reaching the women's 50kg final on day one of her competition on August 6, Vinesh was disqualified for missing weight, as per the United World Wrestling rules, on the morning of her title clash.

Agonising wait: Vinesh, who has appealed for a silver, will know her fate on August 13. PTI

Honouring a champion

Recognition: IOC chief Thomas Bach presented the Olympic Order award to Abhinav Bindra during the 142nd IOC Session. REUTERS

Reetika goes down to Kyzy in quarterfinals

ANI
PARIS

India wrestler Reetika Hooda suffered a heartbreaking loss against Kyrgyzstan's Aiperi Medet Kyzy in the women's 76kg freestyle quarterfinals at the Paris Olympics on Saturday.

Reetika. PTI

Reetika opened her account with a passivity point after the Kyrgyzstan wrestler didn't attack enough in the first round. Kyzy brought the scoreline back to parity after Reetika was warned about passivity and failed to win a point in 30 seconds. Reetika pushed for victory to get a double thigh hold, but her attempt was unsuccessful and she endured a 1-1 loss (on criteria).

Earlier, Reetika defeated Hungary's Bernadett Nagy 12-2 (technical superiority) to enter the quarterfinals.

INBRIEF

Anti-climactic end to legend Kipchoge's marathon

Two-time Olympic marathon champion Eliud Kipchoge was hoping for a dream finale at the age of 39 but ended up handing over his running shoes to a fan. The only man to run under two hours – albeit in an unofficial race – the Kenyan superstar decided enough was enough in Paris and stopped running around the 30km mark. In scenes captured by an *AFP* reporter in the crowd, Kipchoge turned to fans and handed over his shoes, bib and socks to supporters. "I don't know what my future will hold. I will think about it over the next three months," he said.

Brazil beats Canada to take women's beach volleyball gold

The top-seeded Brazilian pair of Ana Patricia Silva and Eduarda Santos claimed the Paris Olympics gold in the women's beach volleyball on Friday, clinching the victory in three tense sets. The pair beat seventh-ranked Canadians Melissa Humana-Paredes and Brandie Wilkerson, who returned a silver, by 15-10 in the decider.

USA's Rai Benjamin claims 400m hurdles title

American Rai Benjamin outstripped Norwegian arch-rival Karsten Warholm to win Olympic 400m hurdles gold in Paris on Friday. Benjamin timed 46.46 seconds as defending champion Warholm tied up badly towards the end of the race, claiming silver in 47.06s. Brazil's Alison Dos Santos took bronze in 47.26s.

Nafissatou Thiam clinches Olympic heptathlon treble

Belgium's Nafissatou Thiam clinched a historic treble of heptathlon golds on Friday. Thiam, the 2016 and 2020 Olympic champion, finished with 6,880 points after the 800m, pipping Britain's Katarina Johnson-Thompson who took silver with 6,844 points. Thiam's compatriot Noor Vidts won bronze with 6,707 points.

Frenchmen stun Poland, defend volleyball title

France defeated World No. 1-ranked Poland 3-0 to win the Olympic men's volleyball gold on Saturday, defending its title from the Tokyo Games but this time on home soil inside a rocking South Paris Arena 1. France is only the third country to win back-to-back golds in men's volleyball after the former Soviet Union and the USA. The U.S. had beaten World champion Italy in straight sets on Friday to take the bronze.

Tola wins men's marathon in an Olympic record time

The Ethiopian comes up with a masterclass in solo front running; Belgian Abdi upgrades his Tokyo bronze to silver

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

What a feeling! Tola called it the "greatest day of his life" after winning the marathon gold. REUTERS

Ethiopian Tamirat Tola delivered a masterclass in solo front running to win the Olympic men's marathon in Paris on Saturday as Eliud Kipchoge's bid for a third gold went up in smoke.

Tola clocked an Olympic record of 2:06.26 for victory, finishing 21s ahead of Belgium's Bashir Abdi, whose silver marked an upgrade from his bronze garnered at the Covid-hit Tokyo Games three years ago. Kenya's Benson Kipruto, winner of Tokyo, Boston and Chicago Marathons in recent years, rounded out the podium, a further 13s adrift.

"Thank you, Paris!" said Tola, the 2016 Olympic 10,000m bronze medallist, who will turn 33 on Sunday. "I'm happy today, I was the 2022 World champion and now I'm Olympic champion.

"It's the greatest day in my life. This was my goal." Tola, a late call-up to replace the injury-hit Sisay Lemma, won gold at the 2022 Worlds in Eugene.

More recently, he finished third at last year's London Marathon and won the New York City Marathon in a course record of 2:04.58.

Tola's teammate Kenenisa Bekele, who won three Olympic and five Worlds golds over 5,000m and 10,000m before turning to the marathon, finished 39th in 2:12.24.

The route included a 436m climb and 438m descent. The maximum gradient on the route was 13.5 %.

Medals table

	Country	G	S	B	T
1	China	38	27	24	89
2	USA	37	42	41	120
3	Australia	18	18	14	50
4	Japan	17	12	13	42
5	France	15	22	22	59
6	Great Britain	14	21	27	62
7	Korea	13	8	9	30
8	Netherlands	13	7	12	32
9	Germany	12	10	8	30
10	Italy	11	13	15	39
70	**India**	**0**	**1**	**5**	**6**

GOING FOR GOLD

Athletics: Women's Marathon
Basketball: Women
Cycling Track: Women's Sprint, Men's Keirin, Women's Omnium,
Handball: Men
Modern Pentathlon: Women's Individual
Volleyball: Women
Waterpolo: Men
Weightlifting: Women's +81kg
Wrestling: Men's Freestyle 65kg, Men's Freestyle 97kg, Women's Freestyle 76kg

A memorable first: Chinese gymnasts steal the show. GETTY IMAGES

China pips Israel and Italy to win rhythmic gymnastics gold

Associated Press
PARIS

China pulled off a stunner in rhythmic gymnastics on Saturday, becoming the first non-European country to win Olympic gold in the group event by finishing just ahead of Israel and Italy.

The five-woman Chinese team posted a total of 69.800 points in the final, which was divided into two routines: one using hoops, the other with the athletes using ribbons and balls. China topped the eight-team final in hoops and ranked third in the other portion of the final to edge Israel by 0.950 points.

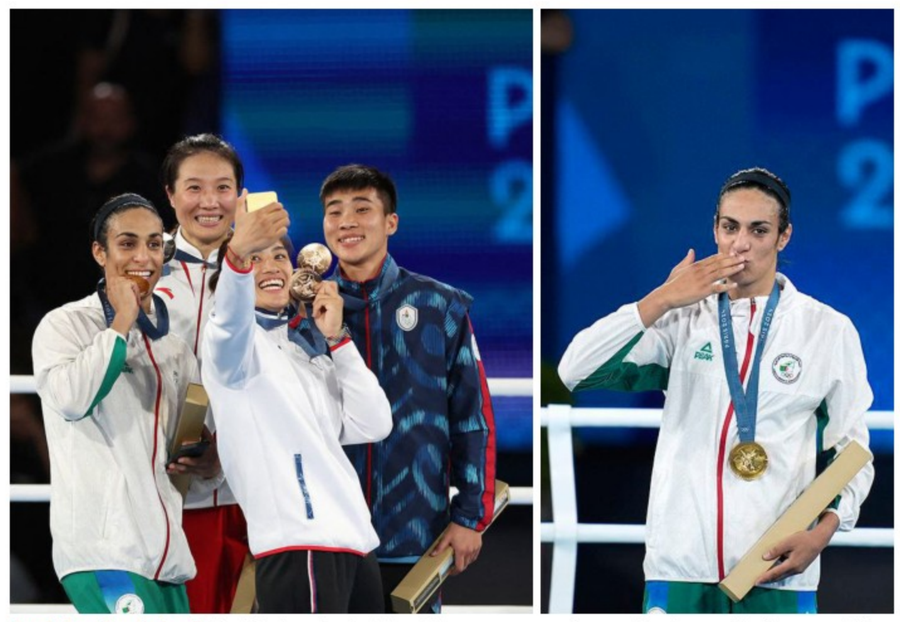
Italy earned the bronze, 1.700 points behind China.

The silver is the first in rhythmic gymnastics for Israel, which won the world championship last fall.

Bulgaria, the defending Olympic champion, slipped to fourth.

I'm a woman like any other: Khelif after her gold medal triumph

Agence France-Presse
PARIS



A celebration indeed: Khelif, who clinched the 66kg crown, pose for a selfie along with silver medallist Yang, and bronze medallists Nien and Suwannapheng. REUTERS

Algerian boxer Imane Khelif defied a major gender controversy to win gold at the Paris Olympics on Friday in front of a pulsating Roland Garros crowd that roared her to victory.

Khelif claimed a unanimous points decision win over China's Yang Liu in the women's 66kg final for her first Olympic medal.

Khelif had enjoyed a height and strength advantage over the three opponents she comfortably dismantled on her way to the final.

Yang was a different proposition, the 32-year-old being nearly as tall and also having pedigree as a world champion.

Loud cheers went up when the 25-year-old Khelif entered the arena, shadow-boxing her way towards the ring as chants of "Imane, Imane" rang out.

Dictating terms

Khelif dictated most of the first round from the centre of the ring and unloaded a flurry of punches on Yang two-thirds of the way through to take the early initiative. The second round started in the same way, with Khelif's punches appearing to carry more snap, power and menace.

The Algerian was ahead on all the judges' scorecards heading into the third round, and she just needed to avoid serious trouble to claim gold.

The two embraced at the bell, and after Khelif's comprehensive victory was confirmed, she was paraded around the arena on the shoulders of an Algerian team member.

With the gold medal hanging around her neck, Khelif was asked at a packed press conference about the eligibility row that dogged her Games.

"I am fully qualified to take part, I am a woman like any other. I was born a woman, lived a woman and competed as a woman. These are enemies of success," she said.

"That gives my success a special taste because of these attacks."

Breaking makes a spectacular debut

Y.B. Sarangi
PARIS

Path-breaker: Japan's Ami Yuasa, known as B-Girl Ami, won the first ever gold in this discipline. AP

The art form of break dance made a spectacular debut in the Olympics on Friday. The makeshift venue for breaking at the La Concorde arena here was a vibrant platform amalgamating music, dance and excitement.

The extraordinary show of agility, flexibility, rhythm and bravery – pepped up by one-on-one duels involving throwing of challenges and intimidating opponents – on day one ended on a high with Japan's b-girl Ami becoming the discipline's first champion in front of International Olympic Committee president Thomas Bach.

After entering the history books, Ami took some time let the feeling sink in. "I am in the dream. Slowly, I'm gonna understand what has happened to me. I'm happy about it and I really like to thank you all for your support," said Ami.

"I didn't really focus on medals. For the final I just wanted to show everything I had... breaking is my expression, expression of art. We could show what breaking is to the world."

Ami, who beat Lithuanian Nicka in the final, felt her gold medal would inspire more Japanese youngsters into the new sport. "I think Japan is really good, every weekend there's a jam, you can have fun and there's also a big jam and a small jam. Japanese breaking is so good, I love it."

Dutch b-girl India, who lost her bronze medal match to Chinese 671, loved the atmosphere. "The crowd was amazing. In the past years it has grown, from the first (Youth) Olympic event in 2018 till now, it's such a long time. I think it will only grow from here, now a lot of people outside of the breaking scene saw it and it will only be more popular from now on."

Los Angeles based Ukrainian b-girl Kate, who made it to the quarterfinals, dedicated her performance to her war-ravaged country where the art form is hugely popular. "Unfortunately, during the war, everything stopped. Not stopped, froze a bit, slowed down because people have different priorities. Before that it was huge.

"I was born and raised there. I know a lot of people are watching me. I give them a little bit of hope. It's the highest reward ever to motivate other people. If I can inspire or touch somebody from Ukraine with my dance, I'm happy," added Kate.

GOLDIES

Tamirat Tola (Eth): *Men's Marathon*
Beatrice Chebet (Ken): *Swimming Women's 10000m*
Firas Katoussi (Tun): *Taekwondo Men's 80kg*
Viviana Marton (Hun): *Taekwondo Women's 67kg*
Asadkhuja Muydinkhujaev (Uzb): *Boxing Men's 71kg*
Wu Yu (Chn): *Boxing Women's 50kg*
Imane Khelif (Alg): *Boxing Women's 66kg*
Lazizbek Millojonov (Uzb): *Boxing Men's 92kg*
Rai Benjamin (USA): *Men's 400mH*
Ana Patricia & Eduarda Santos (Bra): *Women's beach volleyball*
Huanhua Liu (Chn): *Weightlifting Men's 102kg*
Janja Garnbreet (Slov): *Sport Climbing Women's Boulder & Lead, Final lead*
Yuan Cao (Chn): *Men's Diving 10m platform*
Norway: *Women's Handball*
Australia: *Women's Water Polo*
Josef Dosta (Cze): Canoe Sprint Men's Kayak Single 10000m
Lisa Carrington (Nzl): Canoe Sprint Women's Kayak Single 5000m
Katie Vincent (Can): Canoe Sprint Women's Single 200m
Magomed Eldarovitch Ramazanov (Bul): *Wrestling Men's 86kg*
Tsugumi Sakurai (Jpn): *Wrestling Women's 67kg*
Olivia Reeves (USA): *Weightlifting Women's 71kg*
Ami (Jpn): *Women's Break*
USA: *Women's Football*
Portugal: *Cycling Track Men's Madison*
Ahmed Elgendy (Egy): *Men's Modern Pentathlon*
Emmanuel Wanyonyi (Ken): *Men's 800m*
Haruka Kitaguchi (Jpn): *Women's javelin*
Masai Russell (USA): *Women's 100mH*
Jakob Ingebrigtsen (Nor): *Men's 5000m*
Faith Kipygegon (Ken): *Women's 1500m*
Razambek Salambekovitch Jamalov (Uzb): *Wrestling Men's freestyle 74kg*
Geno Petriashvili (Geo): *Wrestling Men' s freestyle 125kg*

THE INDIA SHOW

A look at the Indian performances on Saturday:

Golf:
Women's Individual Stroke Play (final placings): Aditi (T29), Diksha (T49).

Wrestling:
Women's freestyle 76kg: 1/4 final: Reetika lost to Medet Kyzy (Kgz); 1/8 final: bt Nagy (Hun).

One-day series loss leaves more questions than answers for India

While it is easy to put the blame on pitches for the results, the team management has plenty to ponder going forward with only Riyan Parag and Washington Sundar putting up consistent performances, the team was also unable to find a reliable third seamer

CRICKET

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

Silver-lining: In terms of individual efforts, Washington and Parag's bowling were the big positives. PTI

Gautam Gambhir's tenure as head coach started promisingly with a 3-0 whitewash of Sri Lanka in the T20Is before his side was shocked in the 50-over format, going down 2-0 in the three-match series.

The conditions in the one-dayers were on the extreme side, considering how spin-friendly the surfaces were, and batting got progressively tricky as the game went by. A case can be made that such pitches are an outlier, and one shouldn't read too much into the results.

Wake-up call

However, the reverses in the ODIs might be a timely wake-up call to the team management, considering India fielded almost a full-strength side, missing only Jasprit Bumrah and Hardik Pandya.

Gambhir's big vision for the team indicates that he wants more all-rounders and the batters to roll their arms over. The likes of Shubman Gill and Rohit Sharma bowled a few overs. In last year's 50-over World Cup, once India lost Hardik, it had only one genuine all-rounder in Ravindra Jadeja and had a long tail. India's batting depth in this series extended to eight and even nine in the final one-dayer by playing all-rounders Shivam Dube, Washington Sundar and Riyan Parag.

Another aspect evident throughout the tour, in both the T20s and one-dayers, was the preference to have a left-handed and right-handed batter in the middle as much as possible. However, whether the think-tank persists with this remains to be seen.

In terms of individual efforts, Washington and Parag's bowling were the big positives.

Parag was impressive in the T20s and on his one-day debut, effectively mixing his off- and leg-breaks. Washington, the Player-of-the-Series in Zimbabwe, continued his fine bowling form. He was tight as ever and got more purchase off the surface to give vital breakthroughs in the one-dayers.

Dube got a sustained run in this series to see if he could be an effective back-up for Hardik. But the all-rounder did not set the stage on fire. While his bowling was decent, his inability to close out games through his willow was a let-down. Known for his ability to hit the spinners, Dube failed to do that in challenging conditions.

Rishabh Pant's return to the one-day set-up in the final game came two years after his life-threatening accident but lasted only nine deliveries. For now, it seems K.L. Rahul, who has been impressive as a middle-order batter in the last few years, will continue to don the big gloves.

Concern

The big concern for the coaching staff will be that the team did not get much headway in answering the question about the third seamer. Arshdeep Singh was unimpressive in the two games and the team couldn't try out Khaleel Ahmed or Harshit Rana either.

India would have wanted to shore up its resources for a few slots in an otherwise settled one-day set-up. The results, though, were mixed, and management will have plenty to ponder in the near future.

INBRIEF

City beats United on penalties to win Community Shield

Manchester City avenged its FA Cup defeat against Manchester United to lift the Community Shield 7-6 on penalties on Saturday, after a 1-1 draw at Wembley. The game exploded into life in the final 10 minutes as Alejandro Garnacho gave United the lead but Bernardo Silva levelled before City edged a marathon shoot-out.

Indian Super League 2024-25 season to kick off on Sept. 13

The Indian Super League (ISL) 2024-25 season will officially begin on September 13, 2024, marking the start of the league 132 days after the previous season ended on May 4.

Todibo joins West Ham on season-long loan

France defender Jean-Clair Todibo joined West Ham on a season-long loan from Nice on Saturday, completing a remodeled centre-back partnership for the English club ahead of the start of the Premier League.

Windies on the back foot on rain-hit third day

Keshav Maharaj earned three important wickets as the West Indies were limited to 145 for four in reply to South Africa's first innings total of 357 at the end of the third day of the rain-affected first Test in Port of Spain on Friday.

The scores: South Africa 357 in 117.4 overs (Bavuma 86, de Zorzi 78, Mulder 41, Warrican 4/69) vs West Indies 145/4 in 67 overs (Carty 42).

Born Brave should score an encore

HYDERABAD: Trainer D. Netto's ward Born Brave, who won well in his last start, should score an encore in the K. Mahipathi Rao Memorial Golconda Juvenile Million, the chief event of Sunday's races.

1 MICA EMPEROR PLATE (Div. I) (1,200m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II) – 1.55 p.m.: 1. Exclusive Black (2) Md. Ismail 56, 2. Hoping High (7) Mohit Singh 56, 3. One N Only (3) Kuldeep Sr. 56, 4. Tiger Ruby (9) Akshay Kumar 56, 5. Uchchaishravas (5) Neeraj 56, 6. Clarity (6) Suraj Narredu 54.5, 7. Freedom Touch (8) G. Naresh 54.5, 8. Genie (4) R.S. Jodha 54.5 and 9. Gloria (1) Ashad Asbar 54.5.
1. TIGER RUBY,
2. UCHACHAISHRAVAS,
3. CLARITY

2 MICA EMPEROR PLATE (Div. II) (1,200m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II) – 2.30: 1. Hawk Wing (6) G. Naresh 56, 2. Nonpariel (4) Akshay Kumar 56, 3. That's My Mission (1) Surya Prakash 56, 4. Torchbearer (7) Ashad Asbar 56, 5. Cape May (9) Afroz Khan 54.5, 6. House Party (8) R.S. Jodha 54.5, 7. My Challenge (2) Arjun 54.5, 8. Rani Ruckus (3) Md. Ismail 54.5 and 9. Shooting Star (5) Abhay Singh 54.5.
1. NONPARIEL,
2. TORCHBEARER,
3. THAT'S MY MISSION

3 NAWAB KHAJA MOINUDDIN KHAN MEMORIAL CUP (Div. II) (1,600m), 4-y-o, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II) – 3.05: 1. Australia (9) Arjun 61.5, 2. D Yes Boss (3) P. Ajeeth Kumar 59.5, 3. Magnum (2) P. Sai Kumar 58, 4. Indian Sniper (8) Mohit 57.5, 5. Terenga (1) Ashad Asbar 56, 6. Original Sin (6) Akshay Kumar 55, 7. Toffee (5) Md. Ekram 54.5, 8. Sacred Bond (4) Afroz Khan 53.5 and 9. Queen Empress (7) Abhay Singh 50.
1. ORIGINAL SIN,
2. TERENGA,
3. AUSTRALIA

4 K. MAHIPATHI RAO MEMORIAL GOLCONDA JUVENILE MILLION (1,400m) (Terms), 3-y-o only – 3.40: 1. Born Brave (2) Akshay Kumar 56, 2. Dapper Look (1) Kuldeep Sr. 56, 3. Kalki (3) Antony Raj 56, 4. Puranjaya (4) J.Chinoy 56 and 5. Divine Art (5) Suraj Narredu 54.5.
1. BORN BRAVE, 2. DIVINE ART

5 NAWAB KHAJA MOINUDDIN KHAN MEMORIAL CUP (Div. I) (1,600m), 4-y-o and upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II) – 4.15: 1. Delhi Heights (2) Mukesh 62.5, 2. Mark My Day (6) Gaurav 61, 3. Divine Destiny (9) Ashad Asbar 59.5, 4. Brooklyn Beauty (5) G. Naresh 56, 5. Path Of Peace (1) Kuldeep Jr. 56, 6. Wallop And Gallop (4) P. Ajeeth Kumar 56, 7. Only My Way (3) Afroz Khan 54.5, 8. Encore (7) Md. Ekram 54 and 9. Shah Of Iran (8) Md. Ismail 53.
1. BROOKLYN BEAUTY,
2. ENCORE,
3. WALLOP AND GALLOP

6 ADLER PLATE (1,400m), 5-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III) – 4.50: 1. N R I Fantasy (5) A.A. Vikrant 60, 2. Star Medal (6) R.S. Jodha 60, 3. Sucker Punch (7) G. Naresh 60, 4. Carnival Lady (2) Shivansh 58.5, 5. Code Blue (3) Abhay Singh 58.5, 6. Park Lane (9) Md. Ismail 58, 7. Jet Falcon (4) Surya Prakash 55.5, 8. Exponent (1) Gaurav 55, 9. Sadiya (11) Kuldeep Jr. 55, 10. See My Attitude (8) Afroz Khan 54 and 11. Glimmer Of Hope (10) Ajay Kumar 52.5.
1. CARNIVAL LADY,
2. SUCKER PUNCH,
3. JET FALCON

Day's Best: **NONPARIEL**

Jackpot: 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6. Mini Jackpot: 3, 4, 5 & 6. Treble: (i) 1, 2 & 3, (ii) 4, 5 & 6. Tanala: All races.

Blasters blank CISF Protectors

Sports Bureau
KOLKATA

Kerala Blasters overwhelmed paramilitary outfit CISF Protectors 7-0 in Group C of the 133rd Durand Cup at the Salt Lake Stadium on Saturday, to strengthen its claim for a quarterfinal berth from the group.

Moroccan Noah Sadaoui scored a hat-trick to figure in the bulk of the Blasters' strikes while Mohammad Azhar, Naocha Singh, Mohammad Aimen and Kwame Pepra contributed with a goal each to complete the scoreline.

Blasters finished with seven points (two wins and a draw) and a huge goal difference of 15, which makes it a big task for its challenger Punjab FC (on four points with a goal difference of plus three).

The results:

At Kolkata: Group C: Kerala Blasters 7 (Peprah 6, Noah 9, 19, 89, Aimen 16, Naocha 25, Azhar 44) bt CISF Protectors 0.

At Shillong: Group F: Shillong Lajong FC 2 (Ronney Wilson 26, Kenstar Kharshong 49) bt Rangdajied United FC 0.

Anahat and Abhay emerge champions in National squash

Sports Bureau
MUMBAI

Winners: The victorious Anahat and Abhay.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Defending champion Anahat Singh overcame stiff resistance and recovered from the brink of defeat to beat Akanksha Salunkhe 11-9, 5-11, 6-11, 13-11, 11-8 in the women's final of the 80th HCL National squash championship at the Bombay Gymkhana on Saturday.

In the men's final, Abhay Singh beat defending champion and top seed Velavan Senthilkumar 12-10, 6-11, 11-4, 10-12, 11-4.

The men's and women's champions won an equal prize money of ₹1,30,000 each, and the runners-up ₹75,000 each.

Akhilesh Kumar beat Saurabh Kumar 11-4, 11-7, 8-11, 2-11, 12-10 to emerge champion in the pro coach event that fetched a prize of ₹50,000. The runner-up got ₹30,000.

The prizes were presented by Kiran Nadar, the Trustee of Shiv Nadar Foundation and athlete Shaili Singh.

"We are setting a new benchmark with eery tournament. This time with a record 670 participants, we are thrilled to see the growing popularity of squash," said Rajat Chandolia, Head of brand, HCL.

The results (finals): Men: Abhay Singh bt Velavan Senthilkumar 12-10, 6-11, 11-4, 10-12, 11-4.
Women: Anahat Singh bt Akanksha Salunkhe 11-9, 5-11, 6-11, 13-11, 11-8.
Men: Over-70: Rajiv Reddy bt Kishan Lal 5-11, 11-7, 11-7, 11-6. **Over-65:** Vijay Jaini bt Ravikrishna Burla 9-11, 11-9, 11-5, 11-8. **Over-60:** Dushyant Jamwal bt Arun Rabindranath 13-11, 11-7, 11-1. **Over-55:** Aashish Kamat bt Ambarish Daga 11-2, 11-4, 11-5.
Over-50: Dalip Tripathi bt Varinder Singh 11-7, 11-4, 8-11, 11-6. **Over-45:** Baskar Balamurugan bt Amit Singh 11-3, 11-9, 11-7.
Over-40: Paul Ipe bt Sanjay Pawar 11-8, 6-11, 11-4, 11-5.
Over-35: Suhail Kapur bt Arjun Agnihotri 11-8, 8-11, 11-8, 11-4.
Women: Over-35: Alisha Mashruwala bt Mekhala Srivastava 11-2, 11-9, 11-7.

KARNATAKA ROUND UP

200m freestyle titles for Hashika, Dhinidhi

Hashika Ramachandra and Dhinidhi Desinghu won the girls' 200m freestyle titles in Group I and Group II at the sub-junior and junior National aquatic championship in Bhubaneswar, on Saturday.
Select results (winners only):
Boys: 200m freestyle: Group I: S. Dhakshan, 1:55.22s.
Group II: Akshaj Thakuria, 1:59.95.
Girls: 200m freestyle: Group I: Hashika Ramachandra, 2:07.77;
Group II: Dhinidhi Desinghu, 2:07.25.
200m backstroke: Group II: Naisha, 2:25.85.
50m butterfly: Group I: Manavi Varma, 28.65.
Group III: Shwiti Diwakar Suvarna, 32.94.

Ashith stars for Chinmaya Vidyalaya

Ashith Kumar Gowda's 5/15 was instrumental in Chinmaya Vidyalaya's 114-run win over The Regency Public School in a rain-curtailed match of the K.M. Ramprasad Shield U-16 second division schools tournament in Bengaluru.

The scores: Poorna Vikasa Vidyalaya 314/7 in 50 overs (Dhyaan Mahesh Hiremath 32, S. Adhithyan 40, N.S. Shaurya 108, Mikil Shreyal 85, Ahaan Naman Mehta 3/47) bt Bethany HS 19 in 13.3 overs (Dhyaan Mahesh Hiremath 3/7, Aryaansh Pareek 6/12).

Sri Kumaran PS, ICSE, B–62 132 in 24.2 overs (Ojas Jamadagni 54 n.o., V.S. Sankarsha 4/15) bt Sudarshan Vidyamandir, ICSE 48 in 15 overs (Advaryuh Rajesh 4/6).

Chinmaya Vidyalaya 173/9 in 35 overs (P.J. Vishist 38, V. Dhanush Pawar 44 n.o., Arjun M. Nadgouda 3/38, Eshan Tiwari 3/30) bt The Regency PS 59 in 23.1 overs (M.K. Sushanth Keshav 26, Ashith Kumar Gowda 5/15) [Match was revised to 35 overs per side because of wet outfield].

St. John's HS 62 in 25.5 overs (K.R. Rishab 3/21) lost to Venkat International PS 63 for one in 7.3 overs (Aditya Gundalli 30 n.o.).

VVS Sardar Patel HS 235 in 47.3 overs (Shaurya Vinod 49, C.N. Bhargav 51, Ranjodh Raghavan 26, Ishan Santosh Kanade 25, J.R. Siddanth 3/48) bt Innisfree House School 187 in 38 overs (Mohamed Hisham 37, Datta Dhanush P. Sastry 46, Vivek 3/25).

Hat-trick by Priyadharshini

S. Priyadharshini scored a hat-trick as Kemp FC beat Pass FC 5-1 in the Karnataka Women's League football here on Saturday.
The results: Roots FC 3 (Mythili Parvati 67, Rosy Thanga 71, Nima Doma Sherpa 90)bt Pink Panthers FC 1 (Anjana Thapa 51); Kemp FC 5 (S. Priyadharshini 27, 45, 73, Priya Chettri 48, Mariyam Khatun 79) bt Pass FC 1 (Raziya Khan 38).

Anthony is Bangalore United's hero

Anthony Vimal's brace helped Bangalore United HC blank New Ashoka HC 4-0 in the KSHA D.S. Murthy Memorial hockey on Saturday.
The results: Bangalore United 4 (Anthony Vimal 23, 36, Vivek 30, Mani 37) bt New Ashoka 0; Adhiyamaan College of Engg 5 (Dharsan 4, Suriya 8, Ahies Rhuman 19, Harish 21, Vijayadeva 31) bt Ideal SC 1 (Prasanna 10).

LIVE TELECAST

Olympics 2024: Sports 18-1 & JioCinema, 11 a.m. onwards
Football: Durand Cup, Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 3.30 & 6.30 p.m.
West Indies vs South Africa: 1st Test, day 5, FanCode, 7.30 p.m.

Tottenham signs up Solanke from Bournemouth

Associated Press
LONDON

Tottenham completed the signing of striker Dominic Solanke from Premier League rival Bournemouth on Saturday in a deal worth a reported $83 million. Solanke, who has played one match for England, has signed a six-year contract and makes the move a week before the start of new Premier League season.

The deal for the 24-year-old Todibo, who played for Barcelona when aged 19, contains an option to make the transfer permanent for a reported $43.6 million in the offseason of 2025.